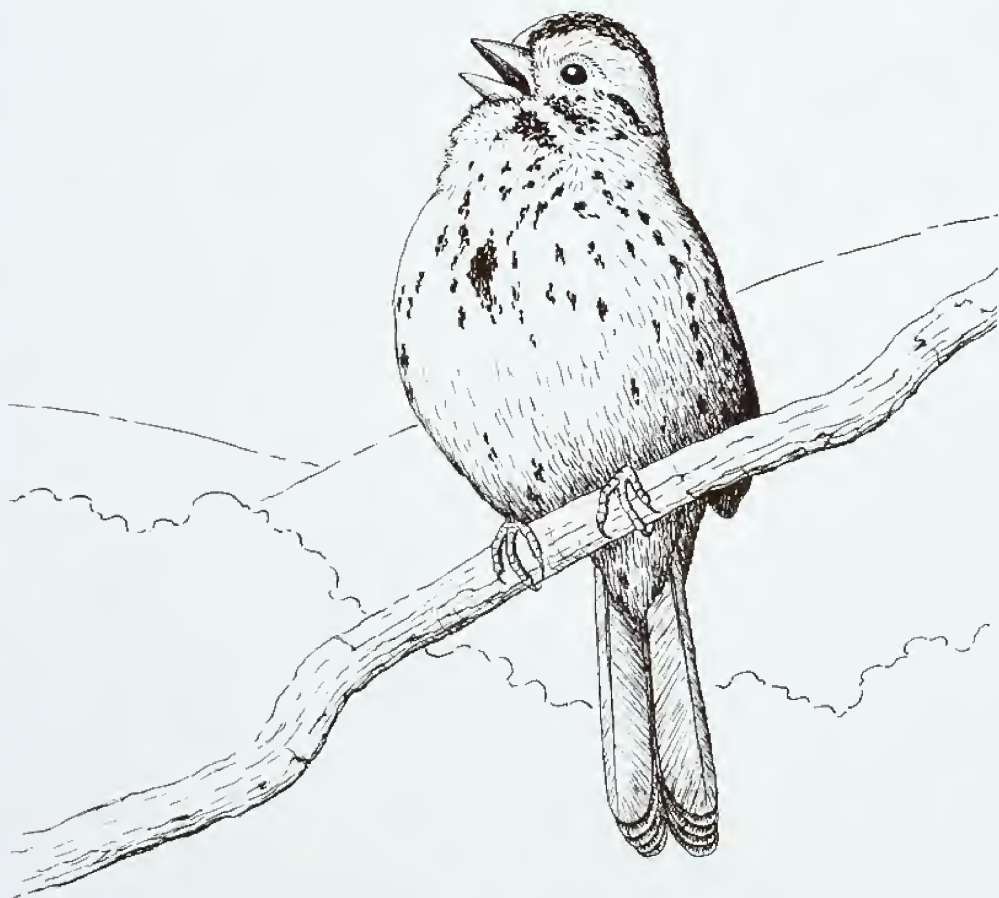


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Mid-continent Observations of Ross' Geese

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Ross' Geese (*Anser rossii*) have become increasingly common in the Central and Mississippi Flyways in recent years and one can expect to find several in Iowa each year during migration in suitable habitat. I observed a substantial number of Ross' Geese at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in western Iowa between October 31 and November 15, 1981 (Kent, 1981). The objective of this paper is to present a historical synopsis of the geographic distribution of the Ross' Goose, to summarize my observations in western Iowa, and to comment on key identifying characteristics that I found helpful in making these observations.

History of Geographic Distribution

The first recorded nest of the Ross' Goose was discovered along the Perry River in arctic Canada (Northwest Territories) in 1938 (Gavin, 1947). Since then, they have been found breeding along the Queen Maud Gulf, on Banks Island, along the McConnell River on the west side of Hudson Bay, at La Perouse Bay, and on the Boas River delta of Southampton Island (Johnsgard, 1975 and Palmer, 1976). Traditionally, these geese winter in California in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

Although Ross' Geese were reported east of the Rockies prior to 1950, Johnsgard (1975) points out that most of the eastern records date from the 1950s or later. Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Missouri, and Iowa are among the states in which the Ross' Goose has been observed.

A combination of factors are probably responsible for the increase of records over the mid-continent. Dzubin (1965) notes that lake conditions in eastern Alberta and western Saskatchewan were poor in the early 1960s. Consequently, from 1960 to 1962, part of the Ross' Goose population shifted eastward during migration to utilize the few remaining lakes in western Saskatchewan.

Of importance also is the increase of the Lesser Snow Goose (*Anser c. caerulescens*) population in the 1950s which led to an extension of the fall flight path eastward from central Alberta. Dzubin (1965) estimated that in the early 1960s, as many as 25,000 Snow Geese occurred on most of the lakes utilized by the Ross' Goose during migration.

Another factor which may account for the increase of Ross' Geese in mid-America is the supposed expansion of their breeding range eastward along the McDonnell River in the Northwest Territories (Dzubin, 1965). Although MacInnes and Cooch (1963) hypothesized that the McDonnell River breeding colonies were merely overlooked in the past, Prevett and MacInnes (1972) provide data to show that the Ross' Goose population is actually increasing in North America.

Prevett and MacInnes (1972) state that Ross' Geese in the central United States probably originate from one of two areas. Some of the Ross' Geese nesting in the Queen Maud Gulf area probably join Snow Geese which also nest there and follow the latter southwards in the fall. Most Snow Goose band recoveries from this breeding area are in the mid-continent.

Another source for mid-continent Ross' Geese is the McConnell River and Southampton breeding colonies. Both Ross' Geese and Snow Geese from these areas winter in Texas and Louisiana. Since pair formation and copulation in the Ross' Goose take place in the winter, mixing of flocks of these two species on the wintering grounds provides a greater opportunity for interspecies pair bonds to form. This may explain the expansion of Ross' Geese to the McConnell River area.

Prevett and MacInnes (1972) estimated the 1969 Ross' Goose mid-continent population to about 1,135. Dzubin (1965) estimated that the U.S. winter population was 32,450 in 1964. Todd (1979) states that conservative estimates of the continental population are between 50,000 and 70,000.

Identifying Ross' Geese

My observations at DeSoto NWR in the fall of 1981 were part of a project initiated by Robert B. Frederick and Rex Johnson of Iowa State University to estimate the Ross' Goose population at the Refuge during the fall migration. Our method of sampling was as follows: using a 20x or variable zoom (20x-45x) telescope, flocks were approached within 200 meters or closer. Individuals in each flock were identified to species and color phase using a methodical technique designed by Johnson and Frederick (unpubl. data) to insure that birds were not counted twice.

The first Ross' Goose was identified by Frederick during the early part of the last week of October. Of 9,700 geese observed on the weekends of October 31 and November 14, 17 Ross' Geese were sighted.

Identifying Ross' Geese requires considerable patience but, with practice, most observers can overcome much of the difficulty one experiences at first. I noticed that the obviously shorter bill is a key distinguishing field mark and should be the first feature for which an observer should search. Adult birds were noticeably smaller than the Lesser Snow Goose and had comparatively shorter necks. The color of the bill was bright pink with bluish mottling (often described as warty protuberances) at the base of the upper mandible. Black tomia or 'grinning patches' were not present on the mandibles. Leg coloration was pinkish.

The immature birds are brighter in color than the larger immature Snow Geese. Another good character was the contrast between the grayish crown and the bright white forehead. This contrast was not as striking in the immature Snow Goose. Bill coloration of immatures was generally darker than the adult birds but nonetheless had a pink wash. In contrast, most immature Snow Geese had an essentially uniform dark bill. Leg coloration of immature Ross' Geese was not observed.

Behaviorally, I found that the Ross' Geese were usually on the periphery of large flocks and were relatively less active than the Snow Geese. Groups of two or three birds were seen more often than single individuals.

Culmen lengths given by Delacour (1973) show that 47 mm is probably the upper limit for this species. Culmen lengths presented by Trauger, et. al. (1971) for Snow Geese average well above 50 mm. Average fall weights range from 1,583 gm to 1,780 gm for the Ross' Goose and 2,274 gm to 2,403 gm for the Snow Goose. Leg coloration of adult Ross' Geese is deep pink but is usually red in adult Snow Geese (Trauger, et. al., 1971).

With respect to the bill color of immature birds, most young of the year start out with dark (black or gray) mandibles which have a slight wash of pink by mid September (Dzubin, 1965). By mid October, increased amounts of pink on the upper mandible were present. Prevett and MacInnes (1972) point out that the Ross' Goose also has a relatively more rounded head.

Intermediate Birds

Blue phase Ross' and intermediate geese, both white and blue phase, exist in the wild (McLandress and McLandress, 1979 and Trauger, et. al., 1971). A discussion of field marks characteristic of intermediate geese is beyond the realm of this paper; however, the presence of such hybrids, combined with actual observations of Ross' Geese mated with Snow Geese, represents a breakdown of the natural barriers between these two species. Recent changes in the distribution and

abundance of Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese are probably an important factor contributing to the increase in hybridization activities. Concern is presently being expressed for the survival of the Ross' Goose as a distinct species. Because of the small numbers of Ross' Geese, it is possible that hybridization activities will allow the more numerous Snow Goose to 'genetically swamp' the Ross' Goose population, the latter of which has a relatively smaller gene pool (Trauger, et. al., 1971).

Iowans wishing to see Ross' Geese may be able to find one at one of the Missouri River Refuges in the spring, but better chances are available in the fall when migration is not as fast-paced. DeSoto NWR in western Iowa should have Ross' Geese by early November. Squaw Creek NWR in northwest Missouri should have these birds by mid to late October. I recommend using a methodical procedure to identify the birds when looking for Ross' Geese. This insures that each individual receives equal attention and it also increases the probability of certain identification.

Acknowledgements

I thank Robert B. Frederick and Rex Johnson for analyzing the DeSoto NWR data with me and I thank Dr. Erwin Klaas of Iowa State University for his comments regarding this manuscript.

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Christmas Count 1981-82

W. ROSS SILCOCK
MALVERN, IOWA

Last year's record of 39 locations reporting was missed by one this year, which was a good effort due to the often inclement weather. The lone non-reporting locality was North Linn, and there were no new counts, making a total of 38 counts this year. Among the reporting locations, Davenport again was tops with 70 species. Following behind were Dubuque at 62, then Clinton in the east and DeSoto in the west, each with 61. Next was Princeton at 60, the only other count to reach

the 60s.

The total of accepted species was 119, far below last year's incredible 127, but still the second best ever (1979-80 had 119). There were two species new to the count, listed below, and three reported species were not accepted, as discussed below.

This year new forms were tried and the results were encouraging. A list of species expected on Iowa CBCs gave compilers an idea of which species were unusual and needed extra description or documentation. Several items will be added to the list next year: Hooded Merganser; Common Merganser; Accipiter sp.; Buteo sp.; Shrike sp.; Meadowlark sp.; Yellow-headed Blackbird (w); Red Crossbill; and White-winged Crossbill. Observers are encouraged to report unidentified birds from difficult groups as unidentified to species, such as "Buteo sp."

Compilers are asked to keep track of party hours and miles, as required on the reporting form, as this data is important in analyzing count data, and enhances greatly the value of the data.

For those hardy birders who do anything between CBC time and spring, how about trying a repeat of your CBC coverage (on an individual basis) sometime in the first half of February? You will definitely be surprised at how many fewer birds and species you can find. The important point is that CBCs are not a measure of winter bird distribution or populations. More correctly they measure late fall or early winter populations and in this sense have little bearing on which birds (and numbers) are able to overwinter in Iowa. So how about it? Send your CBC route totals and your corresponding February totals to me next year and let's try a real winter bird count!

Species new to the Iowa CBC

Mute Swan: Although reported at times in winter along the Mississippi River, this is the first one to be "captured" on a CBC. It was reported from Princeton.

Hawk-Owl: Needing little comment from me, this remarkable occurrence at Waterloo (Cedar Falls count) has been well-documented and seen by "mult. ob." Remember that James Vardaman, who saw 699 species in the ABA area in 1979 did not see a Hawk Owl until very late in the year, after six trips to supposed stake-outs in Alaska, when it became his 694th bird! And all we had to do was drive to Waterloo (which took me three tries)!

Best of the Rest

Lark Sparrow: One was reported from Rathbun with rather sketchy details, but it was watched for about five minutes and had a "white fringe around the tail" and a breast spot, as well as being rather large. The only previous CBC record was in 1939 at New Hartford. The southerly location and the large numbers of other sparrows at Rathbun this year make the sighting more credible.

Northern (Bullock's) Oriole: Although in recent years in the southeast US orioles have been regular at winter feeders, orioles in Iowa in early winter are still a novelty. In Iowa western Northern Orioles (ie Bullock's) are a possibility. This one was at a Cedar Falls feeder and was a well-described female.

Whistling Swan: Second count record: one was at Decorah, apparently sick or wounded. They are regular fall migrants in northeast Iowa. There was also one at Sioux City during the count period, the compiler sending me a photo of the bird. I sent the photo to Harold Burgess of the Trumpeter Swan Society, to check the possibility of a Trumpeter. However the relatively short wings and dished upper mandible indicated that the bird was indeed a Whistler.

Am. White Pelican: Again a second count record: one seen walking on ice at Jamaica. It was not noted whether it could fly. The only previous count record was

of one which remained near Princeton for several months in 1975.

Ross' Goose: Although only the second count record, the one at Shenandoah probably reflects regular occurrence with Snow Geese. The problem is finding these birds among the numerous Snows.

Prairie Falcon: This is the seventh year this species has been reported, but the last time was in 1952, and this year for good measure two were reported: one each at Sioux City and DeSoto. This species is a definite western Iowa fall and winter specialty, perhaps more to be expected in snowy years.

Barrow's Goldeneye: One (a female) was reported from Cedar Rapids for the count period, with a rather convincing description by an experienced birder. This would be a first state record, and acceptance of the record is pending review by the Records Committee of the IOU.

Notable Misses

Two species listed as expected on Iowa CBCs on the reporting form were not found: Pied-billed Grebe, which usually shows up on Cedar Rapids' "heated pool", and Glaucous Gull, which has been missed only twice in the past 12 years on the Mississippi River. These were probably the worst misses, but some others also qualify for this category:

Lincoln's Sparrow: Recorded eight of the last ten years, and probably occurs each year.

Brewer's Blackbird: This species probably occurs in western Iowa each winter in small numbers. Identification can be a problem, however. Spirit Lake's compiler had 16 reported but was unsure as to whether to report them, as no details were provided. For this reason I did not include them, but their occurrence might be expected as stragglers from fall migration. We need to know more about the status of this species in Iowa.

Carolina Wren: Another species which is not a surprising miss, as it has problems with our climate. It was found in only one of the last three winters, but prior to that had not been missed since 1965.

Record Numbers

Several new records were set for single-locality totals:

White Pelican	1 at Jamaica (tie)
Mute Swan	1 at Princeton (new to count)
Whistling Swan	1 at Decorah (tie)
Ross' Goose	1 at Shenandoah (tie)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4 at DeSoto (tie)
Prairie Falcon	1 each at Sioux City and DeSoto (tie)
American Kestrel	33 at Rathbun
Ruffed Grouse	11 at Decorah
Hawk-Owl	1 at Cedar Falls (new to count: who will beat it?)
Yell.-bell. Sapsucker	8 at Tristate (tie)
Blue Jay	378 at Decorah
Hermit Thrush	1 each at Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Omaha 19-way tie: someone please find two!)
Loggerhead Shrike	17 at Rathbun (tie)
Northern Oriole	1 at Cedar Falls (tie)
Northern Cardinal	558 at Davenport
Pine Siskin	249 at Davenport
Lark Sparrow	1 at Rathbun (tie)
Snow Bunting	651 at Ames

Identification Comments

Three reported species were not accepted: a Swainson's Hawk at Tristate, a

Broad-winged Hawk at Cedar Rapids, and a Vesper Sparrow at Waterloo.

I have discussed Swainson's Hawk many times here before; while I conceded that its occurrence is possible, I wonder why no field raptor expert has ever reported one north of Texas or Florida in winter? If indeed there are no winter Swainson's, what are we seeing? Try reading Bent's descriptions of Harlan's Hawk plumages: two out of three reported Swainson's Hawks in western Iowa in the past three years were dark-phase birds. I wonder if we know enough about the variation in Red-tail (including Harlan's) dark-phase plumages to eliminate these from consideration. Can't you raptor enthusiasts trap some of these dark birds and identify them? Many winter buteos set up territories, and suspicious ones should be trapped and examined.

A similar debate rages about Broad-winged Hawk in winter. The plumage description submitted seems correct enough, but my concern is confusion with Cooper's Hawk, especially in this case, where the bird left its perch in a tree and spiralled upwards (presumably on a thermal). Sometimes when accipiters are not in direct flight and are "playing" in thermals, they can look very much like buteos. Basically we are dealing with probabilities: in Iowa in winter, which is more likely: occurrence of a Broad-winged Hawk or buteo-like behaviour of an accipiter leading to its identification as a Broad-wing? I suspect the latter.

The Vesper Sparrow was glimpsed from a moving car, and, while we all identify birds this way at times, the problem is that in winter when Vesper Sparrow is rare, a better look is needed to clinch the identification.

Finally, about Meadowlarks. Barbara Wilson shattered my thoughts that winter meadowlarks could be identified by certain plumage characters (yellow on cheeks, barring in tail, for example). She has a series of birds which show these characters in about every combination. My conclusion is that to identify meadowlarks by plumage characters (at least in western Iowa), one must have all the "western" characters to be safe identifying the bird as a Western, and vice-versa for an Eastern. I despair that short of collecting we may never know the true status of Iowa's winter meadowlarks.

Population Comments

This year I will only deal in general with notable items regarding numbers, rather than try to analyze these. Analysis is more meaningful over a period of years (and we'll also save some space in **IBL** for someone else!)

Red-tailed Hawk: In Fremont County and at Cedar Rapids Red-tails seemed low, but statewide numbers were about normal.

Accipiters: Notable was the number of Goshawks this year. Probably not a major invasion, but certainly noteworthy. In recent years, CBC data show a ratio of about 2:1 of Sharp-shins over Cooper's. This year, when you were asked to say how you identified these species, the ratio turned out to be . . . 2:1, suggesting that identification is probably correct. Indeed, 98 percent of all accipiters reported were identified to species! I suspect that with practice these birds can indeed be separated in the field in most cases.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: How to explain an 8-fold increase this year over the steady levels of the prior three years? This is remarkable, even if this species continues to expand northwards and consolidate its range.

Blue Jay: It is hard to overlook the dramatic increases the last two years. Last year it increased 37 percent over the prior three year-average, and this year the figure is 52 percent. A new high was set at Decorah of 378 birds. Undoubtedly there was an influx, and it probably is also doing well as a breeder.

Tufted Titmouse: Numbers are remaining rather steady, although historically not high. There is a very marked variation in numbers across the state,

dramatically decreasing from southeast to northwest.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This was a good year for this species, doubling last year's levels and showing a four-fold increase over the prior three-year average.

Cedar Waxwing: There were far fewer of these birds in the state this year, about one third the prior three-year average. Noting that Robins also were way down (more than half were at DeSoto), I suspect that the berry crop was poor.

Purple Finch: A moderate year, lower than last, but six times higher than two years ago. Probably best considered about normal.

Common Redpoll: Second best year of the past four, but only about one sixth the level of four years ago. Again probably just a moderate year, and perhaps we are due a good redpoll influx.

Pine Siskin: Although in good numbers this year, still only about half the levels of last year. Still, it was the most plentiful winter finch this year.

American Goldfinch: Numbers were about normal for this species after last year's minor uptick.

Crossbills: The absolute numbers for these species the last four years are: Red: 0; 10; 0; 71; and White-winged: 0; 0; 22; 26. This points out the erratic nature of their visits to Iowa, but indicates that this was a fairly good year for crossbills, especially Red ones. Perhaps someone will find Iowa's first Red Crossbill nest this spring.

Northern Junco: This was the best year for some time for juncos, making Tree Sparrows seem scarce, although the latter were indeed here in about normal numbers. The nickname "snowbird" is apt for this species.

1. ALLEMAN (15 mile diameter circle centered on Alleman and including Big Creek Lake, Chichaqua Wildlife Refuge, Jester Park, Saylorville Dam north to Jester Park, and areas between these locations. Dec. 27: 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Temp. 18-25; wind: 0-5 mph from S.; Ground bare, some open water, overcast; field party hours 40; field party miles 50.

Comments: 10 Bald Eagles most ever seen on this count. 5a-5im.

Observers (5) in 3 parties: Dean Mosman (compiler), Diane Mosman, Mike Mosman, Scott Rolfes and Danielle Wirth.

2. AMES (Jct. I-35 and Highway 30.) Dec. 19: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -10-5; wind: 1-10 mph from North; 0-1" snow cover, water frozen. field party hours 93½; field party miles 378; feeder party hours, 5. Clear in morning to mostly cloudy late in day.

Comments: Winter birds (Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Red Crossbills, C. Redpolls) were seen for the first time in several years in considerable number.

Observers (27) in 8 parties, plus 1 at feeder: Iowa State is now on semesters; school was out when the count was held; few students helped, list of obs. not submitted.

3. BURLINGTON (Flint Hills Golf course road and Highway 99.) Dec. 19: 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -4-15; wind: light less than 5 mph from NW; 2 to 4 inches snow cover; frozen except for few drainage ditches - open spots in river. Sudden change to snow fouled up location of birds; field party hours, 44; field party miles, 210; feeder party hours, 10.

Comments: Common snipe & wildeer seen Dec. 20.

Observers (15) in 7 parties: Bill Bertrand, Jerry and Katrina Bloomer, Charles (compiler) and Jane Fuller, Karole and James Fuller, Gail George, Harold Linder, Anna Lowther, Lynn McKeown, Tom and Ellen Francis, Barry Geng and Harriett Holsteen.

4. CEDAR FALLS (Intersection of U.S. 20 and Main Street in Cedar Falls, to include Black Hawk Park, George Wyth State Park, Falls Access, Mark Sand

Prairie, Hartman Reserve, and Leonard Katowski Greenbelt.) Dec. 26: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 28-34; wind: 0-5 mph from NE; snow cover 1 to 4 inches. Rivers and streams partly open, ponds and lakes frozen. In a.m. cloudy with moderate snow; in p.m. partly cloudy; field party hours, 27.5; field party miles, 189.5; feeder party hours, 5; owling party hours, 2.

Comments: We had a very good day for our count this year despite the snow that fell almost all morning. The best bird on our count is by far the Hawk Owl that was seen by all observers in the count day even overshadowing the Goshawk that was found that day. Screech Owls were again found by use of a tape player.

Observers (11) in 3 parties, plus 1 at feeder: Ruth Buck, Antoinette Camaratta, Eleanor Corwin, Russell Hays, Tom Kent, Francis Moore (compiler), Bob Myers, Lois Sherman, Tom Stone, Tom Stone, Jr., Opal Uhler.

5. CEDAR RAPIDS (Federal Building in Cedar Rapids, as described 1972.) Dec. 19: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -5-18; wind: 3-10 mph from NW. No snow cover; water mostly frozen (except some portions of the Cedar River, a restricted portion of Cedar Lake, and a few spring-fed areas). Clear all day; cold. Field party hours, 96 (55 on foot, 41 by car); field party miles, 466 (64 on foot, 402 by car); feeder party hours, 12; Owling, 6½ hours.

Comments: Birds seemed pretty scarce to most observers. Buteos - especially Red-tails - seemed incredibly few. The lack of snow made it much harder to find meadowlarks, horned larks, etc. Purple finches and pine siskins and nuthatches were widespread. Southern species which are resident (titmice, cardinals, etc.) seem down in numbers.

Observers (36) in 12 parties, plus 3 at feeders: Warren Barclay, Rob and Karen Bradley, Keith Carris, Pam Crosby, John Daniel, Bob Day, Ray Dutchik, Floy Erickson, Ellen Fisher, Karl and Ruth Goellner, Harlo Hadow, Irene Haerther, Vicki Hixson, Willard Holub, Beryl Layton, Lucile Liljedahl, Gertrude Lippisch, Sue McCullough, Howard McLaughlin, Weir Nelson, Fred Nissen, Mark Ogden, Roberta and Ruth Oppedahl, Joe and Joan Sanders, Joy Stoker, Evelyn Strait, Fred Thompson, Gayle Wallace, Pete Wickham (compiler), Martha Zipp-sie, Aldrich and Gladys Zobac. (Cedar Rapids Audubon Society).

Seen in area count week, but not on count day: Barrow's Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, White-winged Crossbill, Harris' Sparrow.

6. CHEROKEE (15 mile diameter circle centered on U.S. 59 2 miles south of the town of Larrabee, Cherokee County, including Martins Access, The Little Sioux River, Mill Creek, and the Cherokee Sewage Lagoons.) Dec. 20: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 12-25; wind: 25-35 mph from S-Sw; 100 percent snow cover; water 99 percent ice covered. Blowing snow in the open areas caused drifting and ground blizzard conditions. Field party hours, 56, field party miles, 360 by car; 20 by foot; feeder party hours, 18.

Comments: The Bald Eagle was a mature bird. Other species seen during count period: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Shrike and Accipiter (sp).

Observers (23) in 7 parties, plus 6 at feeders: Carl, Sandy, Linda, Joe and Bertie Beals, Dick (compiler), Judy and Vernon Bierman, Marion Brewer, Raymond Cummins, Bill and Melba Grawburg, Jim and Jan Huber, Wally Jardine, Dennis Henrickson, Dave Johnson, Bob Kirchner, Eulas and Gert Quinn, Mildred Thompson, Shirley Wahlstrom and Harold White.

7. CLINTON (Elk River Jct.) Jan. 2: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 21-30; wind: 10-25 mph from SE. Snow cover 3-5", drifted; water: mostly frozen, river 95 percent ice covered; Overcast, snow, sleet, rain, roads 90 percent ice covered, quite miserable!! Field party hours, 36, field party miles, 333.

Comments: Sharp-shinned Hawk - square tail seen (F.L.), Cooper's Hawk -

rounded tail (LL & LS), Accipiter sp. probably a N. Goshawk, not seen well enough to document (LL & CS).

Observers (11) in 4 parties: Ann Barker, Brad Boyd, Bob Bryant, Linda Caldwell, Fred Leshar, Judy and Larry Linder, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Clark Scott, Charles and June Wentworth.

8. DAVENPORT (former toll house of I-74 bridge.) Dec. 20: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 0-21; wind: 3-20 mph from South; snow cover 0-½"; water mostly open, river 75 percent ice covered; mostly clear to partly cloudy, wind caused birds to stay in shelter most of day. Field party hours, 114; field party miles 739, feeder party hours, 23.

Comments: Sharp-shinned Hawks - square tail (PP), B. Barker), Yellow-rumped Warbler, documented (seen in Illinois) (K. McK), Red-sh. Hawk, narrowly banded tail, rusty below (seen in Illinois) I.A.

Observers (48) in 17 parties, plus 6 at feeders: Jerry and Marilyn Aanes, Irma Atwood, Ann and Bill Barker, Jay Behler, Carl Bendorf, Brian, Corey and Lewis Blevins, Brad and Dennis Boyd, Linda Caldwell, Bob and Walt Dau, Dale Dickinson, Vicki and Jim Dohnalek, Sharon Drowscott, Tim Dwyer, Elton Fawks, Don Graves, Allan Hahn, Mary Hawkinson, Dick Hazel, Gene Hollen, Al and Marsha Johnson, Tom Kent, Larry Linder, Fred Lorenzen, Jenny Martin, Beth Mast, Kelly McKay, Don and Jean Moeller, Ralph Money, Mike Newlon, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Mel Peterson, Harold Ray, Chris Reed, Clark Scott, Joyce Spillers, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Ralph Troll.

9. DECORAH (NE corner S24, T99N, R8W.) Dec. 19: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -14-6; wind: 0-5 mph from NW, snow cover 4-6 inches; streams mostly frozen. Clear all day. Field party hours, 32; field party miles, 265.

Observers (16) in 5 parties: Florence Albright, Francis Arness, Carl Aschim, Elizabeth Bottorff, Alan Branhagen, Garth Carlson, Oivind Hovde, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Paul Koenig, Dick and Mark McKernan, Marlene Michel, Arnold and Dolores Rohm, Joe Schaufenbuel, Warren Wicks.

10. DES MOINES AUDUBON SOCIETY (Jct. 63rd and University, Des Moines.) Dec. 19: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. -10-12; wind: 0-5 mph from NW; snow cover 1 to 2 inches; water mostly frozen. Cold. Field party hours, 31, field party miles, 219½, feeder party hours, 8.

Observers (17) in 5 parties, plus 1 at feeder: Eloise and Eugene Armstrong (compiler), Ruth Binsfield, Chancy Bittner, Bill Boller, Margaret Brooke, Randy Brose, Margaret Christian, Mark Dixon, Bery Engrebreetsen, James Gillaspey, Gladys Haskell, John Hoogerheide, Rene Laubach, Richard Mooney, Dennis Thompson, Lurene Wartens.

11. DeSOTO N.W.R. (Refuge H.Q. Building.) Dec. 20: 5:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 8-28; wind: 5-15 mph from South. Snow cover ½ to 4 inches; water mostly frozen; weather a.m. mostly clear, p.m. partly cloudy; field party hours, 49; field party miles, 360.

Observers (15) in 5 parties: Tanya Bray, James Conway, Ruth Gochenour, Ruth Green, Thomas Hoffman, Jim and Sandy Kovanda, Dave Menke (compiler), Steve Moorman, Neal Ratzlaff, B. J. and Sharon Rose, Rick Sojda, Barbara Wilson and Rick Wright.

12. DUBUQUE (15 mile diameter circle with center at Center Grove Cemetery and including Linwood, Industrial Island, John Deere, Durango, Peosta, Swiss Valley, Massey, East Dubuque.) Dec. 26: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 30-35; wind: 10-4 mph from SE. Snow cover 2 to 3 inches old snow plus 1" new snow; water mostly frozen. Cloudy and light snow most of the day. Field party hours, 54, field party miles, 203; feeder party hours, 7.

Comments: Wild food crop good.

Observers (25) in 9 parties plus three at feeders: John Brennan, Frieda and George Crossley (compiler), Peter Ernzen, Adele and John Feller, David Hartig, William Herrmann, Howard and Joan Higley, Jill Keaton-Stevenson, Brian Larson, Gregory Miller, John and Leta Miller, Dennis Olson, James Rooks, Phyllis Shultz, John Stampe, Glenda Vize, Robert and Sandra Walton, Robert and Wauneta Wiederaenders, Jan and Robert Williams, Charles and Gretel Winterwood.

13. ELDORA (15 mile diameter circle centered 1 mile north of Gifford on highway 215 and including Long, Bates, Pine Lake, Steamboat Rock and Reece Parks, roadsides and fields in between.) Dec. 29: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 10-20; wind; calm to 15 mph from SSE. Light snow cover; streams mostly frozen to 30 percent open, lake 95 percent frozen over; below dam open stream to river. Partly cloudy to clear and sunshine; field party hours, 17½, field party miles, 125; feeder party hours, 3.

Comments: Birds seen that were new to our count: Rough-legged Hawk and Great Horned Owl. Mourning Doves in one flock by edge of cornfield. Pine Lake State Conservation Officer stated approximately 40 Canada Geese are wintering in area. Gray Partridge have been breeding in this area for the past 2 years — concentrated in a 3 mile diameter circle — 4 to 6 miles south of Eldora.

Observers (5) in 2 parties, plus 1 at feeder: Phyllis Harris, Beth Proescholdt, Garnita Seward, Ramona Sommerlot (compiler), Nancy Slife (at feeder).

Other species seen during county period: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Am. Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Brown-hd. Cowbird, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.

14. IOWA CITY (Intersection of U.S. 218 and Co. Rd. F-28, W. of North Liberty, Johnson Co.) Dec. 19: 5:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 2-19; wind: 0-5 mph from NW. Snow cover 4-½". Streams, lakes, reservoir mostly frozen. Clear, very cold. Field party hours, 26 car, 29 foot; field party miles, 432 car, 24 foot; feeder party hours, 3; Owling 68 miles, 7 hrs., all by car.

Comments: Sixty-two species is a new record for the count. Double-crested Cormorant new for count. Second count record for Northern Shoveler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; third count record for Hooded Merganser, Red Crossbill. Red-tailed Hawks, Blue Jays, House Sparrows were at 8-year highs. Owls were also recorded in higher-than-average-numbers, perhaps because of increased effort. Field birds and icterids were low.

Observers (31) in 9 parties, plus 3 at feeders: Carl Bendorf, Corey and Lewis Blevins, Michael and Ruth Bonfiglio, Mona Brown, Linda Caldwell, Lenaii Carlson, Sandra De Kock, Edwin Gentler, Lanny Haldy, Rick Hollis, Anne, Bill and Tom Kent, Bernie and Cal Knight, Larry Linder, Ramona McGurk, Dawson Mohler, Michael Mulier, Mike Newlon (compiler), Mary Noble, Joan Peck, Peter Petersen, Jim and Joey Sandrock, Tom Staudt, Carol Thompson, Ruth Williams, Bob Weber.

15. JAMAICA (A 15-mile diameter circle centered 1½ miles west and 4 miles south of Jamaica, Iowa, including Springbrook S.P., Lakin's Slough, Bays Branch WMA, Lake Panorama and small section of the north and middle Raccoon River.) Dec. 23: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 17-35; wind: 10-15 mph from WNW. 50 percent snow cover. Lake and marshes frozen except a 50 x 100 yd. area of Bay's Branch being kept open by a large group of Mallards and geese. The Middle Raccoon was open below Panorama and the small streams in Springbrook S.P. were open. All other streams were frozen 98 to 100 percent. Clear to mostly clear. Field party hours, 9½, field party miles 79 by car, 4 by foot.

Comments: Missed for the first time in seven years was the Hairy W. (numbers appear to be down this winter) and the Common Grackle. However 3 first timers showed up, not unexpected, but always exciting was an adult Bald Eagle, the Northern Goshawk always rare in Iowa, and a very rare in winter. Am. White Pelican.

Observers (2) in one party: Raymond L. Cummins (compiler), Dennis Henrickson.

Note: The Am. White Pelican - had large pelican bill - very large all-white except for black wing tips. Bird was viewed in excellent light from 50 yds. walking on ice.

16. KEOSAUQUA (Keosauqua; includes Lacey-Keosauqua SP, country roads, Des Moines River bottom and bluffs, etc.) Dec. 31: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp. 33-25; wind: 3-25 mph from SW changing to NNW. 2-3 inches of snow on ground in morning, increasing depth in afternoon. River generally frozen, but with large patches of open water in some areas. At start of count, sky was heavy overcast; snow flurries started mid-morning, with snow becoming heavy in afternoon. Field party hours, 8; field party miles, approx. 60; feeder party hours, 8.

Comments: Of 15 Eagles sighted, 10 were adults.

Observers (2) in 1 party, plus 3 at feeders: Oneita and Kathy Fisher (compiler) and Dick Fisher, Herb Redhead and Jerry Hootman at feeders.

17. LAMONI (15 mile diameter circle centered at Junction of I-35 and U.S. 69 east of Lamoni including country roads, pasture, farmland, and Nine Eagles State Park.) Dec. 26: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Temp. 20-34; wind: 5 mph from South. Snow cover, 2-3 inches. water mostly frozen. Clear a.m., cloudy p.m. Field party hours, 26 (5 foot, 21 car); field party miles, 198 (10 foot, 188 car).

Comments: We used a tape recorder to help locate some of the owls.

Observers (14) in 4 parties: Aaron Baker, Willie Barnett, Mrs. W. C. DeLong, David Gillaspey, J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Jim Gillaspey, Jeff Livingston, Dan Long, Steve Long, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Moon, Arladine Nelson, Lee Searles and John Slayton.

18. LOST NATION (A 15 mile diameter circle centered on a point approximately 1½ miles south of Lost Nation, Iowa, including Mockridge Wildlife Preserve, Waspi River, Eden Valley Refuge and Syracuse State Wildlife Area.) Dec. 21: 6 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 30-36; wind: 0-10 mph from SW. 1-1½ inches, new snow. Water, 80-100 percent ice cover. Cloudy, hazy. Field party hours, 35; field party miles 207 by car, 13 miles on foot, feeder observer hours, 4.

Observers (12) in 4 parties, plus 3 at feeders: Larry Dolphin, Bob Bryant (compiler), Vicki Keitel, Paul Hauer, Jerry Selby, Rose Snell, June Wentworth, Charles Wentworth, Jeanette Ruprecht, Nancy Dolphin, Pete Petersen, Clark Scott.

19. LUCAS (Center Lucas) Dec. 19: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. -8-15; wind: 0-5 mph from NE. Snow cover 1-3 inches. Water partly open, cold, calm and completely clear. Field party hours, 35; field party miles, 190.

Comments: Hawks not spotted until noon.

Observers (14) in 5 parties: Beth Brown, Diane Ford (compiler), Bill and Maryann Gilbert, Carol and John Klein, Laura Harris, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Bill Overland, Jim Sinclair, Robert Thornburg, Rick Trieff, Ron Warnet, Jan Zietlow (Rolling Hills Audubon Society).

20. MARBLE ROCK (One mile west of Marble Rock at Corset Alley (last year the direction was listed as east, west is correct.) Dec. 21: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 27-38; wind: none. Snow cover, 100 percent. Springs running into the Shell Rock were completely open. The river itself had many large sections of open water.

Pleasantly warm and sunny all day. Field party hours, 9½; field party miles, 50 by car, 4-5 by foot. Feeder party hours, 4.

Comments: Although new to this count, the Gray Partridge is becoming more and more common in the area. The Sharp-shinned Hawk and Pileated Woodpecker are also new birds here. Screech Owl tapes were used.

One Observer: Tom Staudt, compiler and Pearl Knoop at feeder.

21. MARSHALLTOWN (15 mile diameter circle centered on E27 one mile east of highway 14 and including Union Grove Lake, same as previous years.) Dec. 19: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 4-15; wind: 5-10 mph from N to NW. Light snow cover. Iowa River 80 percent frozen, open where water from sewage plant enters the river. Mostly clear day, light clouds late afternoon. Field party hours, 32, field party miles, 185; feeder party hours, 12.

Comments: Longspurs were observed by Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart. Canada Geese were seen at the sand and gravel pit on E. Main St. Rd. by John King. They had been there a few days.

Observers (27) in 6 parties, plus 3 at feeders: Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Crowther, Thelma Crowther, Gayle Diggins, Maxine Eckles, Mr. and Mrs. Norm Eige, Laura Glasgow, Wendell Graham, Marlys Hufi, Alice Jones, Mr. and Mrs. John King, Carl Kurtz, Gladys Lacy, Carol McMillan, Barb Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. James Plambeck, Mr. and Mrs. Les Ralston, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compiler) and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wignall.

22. MASON CITY (Centered on intersection of S56 and B25, including Shell Rock Preserve and many other conservation areas.) Dec. 19: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -10-10; wind: calm. Snow cover, several inches on the ground and drifts in the country ditches; water, mostly frozen solid with a few open stretches in the Winnebago R. Field party hours, 51, field party miles, 207, feeder party hours, 4.

Comments: Record number of species for this count area in spite of the cold weather.

Observers (20) in 6 parties, plus 2 at feeder: Dorothy Brunner, Russell Brunner, Virgil Eness, Thelma Fromm, Leora Gildner, Daryl and Pat Hansen, James Hansen, Jim Heintzman, Curt Krieger (compiler), Alma Little, L. J. Moore, Richard and Genevieve Nelson, Harold and Reva Pedelty, Leo and Edna Peters, Jim and Jan Walter.

23. MUSCATINE (Center Lock and Dam 16.) Dec. 22: 5:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 30-35; wind 5-10 mph from SW. Snow cover, 0-½". Water mostly open, Mississippi 80 percent ice covered. Mostly cloudy a.m., overcast p.m. Field party hours, 38, field party miles, 428.

Comments: Seen during count period: Herring Gull. Sharp-shinned Hawk, square tail noted, notch on one bird, 1-AH 1-CS.

Observers (11) in 5 parties: Jerry Aanes, Brett Ashford, Brad Boyd, Tim Dwyer, Don Graves, Allan Hahn, Barry Jones, Judy and Larry Linder, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Clark Scott.

24. OAKVILLE (4 miles east of New Boston, Ill. as described 1970.) Jan. 1: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 3-15; wind: 2-10 mph from NW. Snow cover, 1-3"; water mostly frozen, river 95 percent ice covered. Clear to party cloudy; field party hours, 45, field party miles, 378.

Comments: Sharp-shinned Hawk id. by square tail-L.B. Field Sparrows seen at 20', plain breasts, pink bill (in Iowa) A.H.

Observers (15) in 4 parties: Bill Bertrand, Brian, Corey and Lewis Blevins, Linda Caldwell, Don Graves, Allan Hahn, Al and Marsha Johnson, Larry and Judy Linder, Lynn McKeown, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Clark Scott.

25. OMAHA, NEB. (Offutt Base Lake, Bellevue, Neb.) Dec. 19: 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -10-12; wind 0-8 mph from S-SE. Snow cover 4 inches. Lakes and ponds frozen, rivers open. Fog early morning, clearing by 10 a.m. Partly cloudy in afternoon; field party hours, 99½, field party miles, 588, feeder party hours, 2; Owling hours, 4.

Observers (35) in 13 parties, plus 1 at feeder: Mike Baroni, Paul Bedell, Steve Billingham, Tanya Bray, Duane Bright, James Conway, Terry Cox, James Glather, Marg and Denise Graf, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Alan and Betty Grenon, Gene Hickman, Thomas Hoffman, James Hurst, Perry and Stephanie Jamieson, Diane Jones, Petie Knisely, Jim and Sandy Kovanda, Dave Menke, Marion Meyer, Neal Ratzlaff, Jean Rickter, Ken Seger, Mel Tingley, John and Marcia Upchurch, John and Marlene Weber, Melba Wigg (compiler) and Rick Wright.

26. OSKALOOSA (15 mile diameter circle centered on Mahaska Co. Courthouse in Oskaloosa, including Keomah State Park and Lake, Des Moines River.) Dec. 22: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 28-32; wind: 0-5 mph from NW. Light snow cover. Ponds frozen, open water in swift current areas of rivers and creeks. Cloudy all day, reducing visibility. Field party hours, 8, field party miles, 96, feeder party hours, (total) est. 25.

Comments: Unable to locate several species that should have been found, such as: Song Sparrow, Bobwhite, Horned Lark, Meadowlark, Am. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird etc.

Observers (2) in 1 party, plus 5 at feeders: Keith and Irene Layton, compilers.

27. OTTUMWA (Highway 34 & 63 intersection Ottumwa, Ia.) Dec. 19: 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 3-24; wind: 10-15 mph from NE. The ground was about 75 to 85 percent snow covered, about 7" on the ground. Water mostly iced over except for parts of Des Moines river below the Ottumwa dam. The morning was mostly clear with wind gusts up to 25 mph. Clouds moved in in the afternoon. A real cold day with very little bird activity. Field party hours, 56, field party miles, approx. 12, feeder party hours, 30.

Observers (9) in 5 parties, plus 7 at feeders: Bill and Marge Heusinkveld, Charles and Ann Current, Gary and Madeline Wymore, Don and Elaine Johnson and Nelson Hoskins (compiler) in field trips; and Dr. Paul Scott, Hayden Evans, Audrey Lushbaugh, Charles and Darlene Ayers and Dick and Jean McGowen at feeders.

28. PRINCETON-CAMANCHE (Folletts, Ia.) Dec. 27: 5:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 25-28; wind: 6-18 mph, from W. Snow cover 0-1". Mostly open, river 70 percent ice covered. Mostly overcast. Field party hours, 45, field party miles, 435.

Comments: Mute Swan, an adult, free flying, has Wisconsin state band seen at Princeton - L.B., B.B., C.B. E. Meadowlarks, closely observed, joined bars noted in Iowa - L.B., B.B., C.B. Accipiters, sq-notched tail on sharp-shinned (P.P), rounded tail on Cooper's - both by C.S. Pileated Woodpecker seen during count period.

Observers (16) in 5 parties: Ann Barker, Brian, Corey and Lewis Blevins, Bob Bryant, Linda Caldwell, Elton and Margaret Fawks, Dick Hazel, Al and Marsha Johnson, Judy and Larry Linder, Kelly McKay, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Clark Scott.

29. RATHBUN (2 miles south of Rathbun Lake.) Dec. 22: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 32-36; wind: 0-5 mph from North. 5 inches snow cover; Lake frozen except for small areas kept open by ducks and geese. River below dam open. Heavy cloud cover. Field party hours, approximately 60, field party miles, unknown.

Comments: Mockingbird seen within count area during census period.

Observers (17) in 7 parties: Dorothy Cornett, Bill and Doris Cummings,

[illegible]

Com. Flicker	6	6	13	13	17	5	19	17	2	9	86	7	2	15	1	1	12	16	11	4	20	4	25	42	28	12	26	11	6	24	11	14	7	8	19	3	84	2	21		
Pileated Woodpecker	20	20	25	18	54	7	16	39	4	6	28	34	48	6	33	5	8	16	26	19	3	9	13	29	46	60	6	15	38	19	18	5	14	15	8	13	17	10	12	647	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	18	13	12	73	6	16	18	78	2	3	98	7	80	13	8	71	62	30	2	50	4	102	67	19	7	47	36	84	16	4	6	3	19	26	3	3	1106	6		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	14	8	27	23	17	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	34			
Downy Woodpecker	14	8	27	23	17	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	34			
Downy Woodpecker	14	8	27	23	17	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	34			
Horned Lark	14	8	27	23	17	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	34			
Blue Jay	50	169	189	114	212	88	181	313	278	36	73	185	45	320	31	148	219	184	102	66	121	133	294	417	187	172	148	37	118	38	116	23	126	10	55	9116	10	55	9116		
Am. Crow	33	884	189	377	472	211	166	672	208	48	44	200	48	274	135	9	65	38	574	51	147	133	195	96	2014	60	183	70	984	145	347	99	118	23	126	10	55	9116			
Belted Chickadee	61	136	134	199	375	136	109	427	196	90	108	187	40	274	34	20	281	159	127	103	95	175	165	229	426	9	88	204	136	144	37	11	121	161	26	48	109	48	3754		
Indigo Bunting	6	5	26	4	17	3	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9	1	4	9
Blue Grosbeak	24	76	46	66	148	33	18	76	104	81	12	191	15	107	15	7	24	65	30	36	38	1	4	6	7																

Norma Griffith, Bill (compiler) and Marj Heusinkveld, Mark Hoffman, Nelson Hoskins, Kay Malmberg, John McGlothlen, Mary and Rowena Montgomery, Maxine Morrow, Alva and John Neighbours, Charlotte Scott, Marsha Thomas.

30. RED ROCK (Mile Long Bridge, Hwy 14; Lake Red Rock, Marion County.) Dec. 20: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Temp. 2-34; wind: 3-20 mph from South. No snow cover; 85 percent cover on lake; field party hours, 12; field party miles, total approximately 150, feeder party hours, 12. An ice storm arrived in the area at around 5 p.m. greatly affecting late afternoon counts.

Comments: One count was received for the count period, but not on the count day. I was unclear as to how these should be reported so I left them out of the overall count. The species and numbers reported were: 1-Great Blue Heron, 3-Common Bobwhites, 1-Barred Owl. These were observed 12-24-81 by Robert Thornburg below Red Rock Dam. If used, this would bring our total species count to 60. Observers: Gladys Black, Maxine Crane, Robert Thornburg, Phil Krichan, Chris Klentzer, Sandra Strong+, Rick Trine, Gene Armstrong, Eloise Armstrong, Dean Mosman, Diane Mosman, Mike Mosman, Dick Mooney, Dennis Thompson, Harold Wolfe, Bernice Wolfe+, Marjorie Fee, Marion Welch+, Ann Johnson, Herb Dorow, Edie Dorow, Bob Bell, Virginia Bell, Paul Felsing+, Mary Felsing+, Normam Leyden+, Bill Gilbert, Mrs. Joseph Johnson+, Mrs. Robert Nelson+, Terese Herron (compiler). +no. of feeder observers: 8.

31. SAC COUNTY (Clem Efta Residence, Grant City, Auburn) Jan. 2, 1982: 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 20-28; wind: 5 mph from SE. Total snow cover, 6 inches including a 3 inch fall from 6 a.m. to 12 noon Jan. 2. Lake and river all ice covered. A light intermittent snowfall during the morning accumulating 3 inches. The entire day was very overcast. Field party hours, 26, field party miles, hiking, 12, driving 58 miles. Feeder party hours, 38.

Comments: Because of the weather the use of binoculars was limited and many birds seen could not be identified. We did not cover the Hagie Park, Sac City area and the sparrows and small birds usually seen in the brush were not noted.

Observers (8) in 3 parties, plus 6 at feeders: Lonnie Brown, Clem Efta and Rita Efta (co-compiler), Glenn Jones and Betty Jones, Sonia Kerns, Evelyn Lammers, Margaret Seeck (co-compiler).

32. SHENANDOAH (Farragut to include Riverton Refuge.) Dec. 19: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -22-4; wind: calm to 5 mph from SE. 7 to 8 in. snow cover; waters mostly frozen. A.M., haze, P.M. clear. Field party hours, 42, field party miles, 307, feeder party hours, 9.

Observers (14) plus one at feeder: Becky Bernthal, Bob Collins, Randy Cooney, Barbara Cunningham, Jim McKim, Ruth Phipps, Steve Shupe, Ross Silcock, Marie Spears, Betty Walters (compiler), Jeff Wignall, Barb Wilson, Dan Varland, Mary Beth Vaughn.

33. SIOUX CITY (Sioux City, Auditorium area covered same as previous years.) Dec. 19: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -11-6; wind: 10-15 mph from SE. 4 inch snow cover. Floating ice on Missouri River, Big Sioux open in places. Extremely cold in a.m., with hoar frost on trees and shrubs. Limited bird activity. No. of field parties, 6, field party hours, 43, field party miles, 214.

Observers: Larry Benne, Diane Blankenship, Harriet Bruner, Steve Duecker, Larry Farmer, Brad Grier, Marla Grier, Doug Herman, Bill Huser, Marge Kennedy, Robert Nickolson (compiler), Larry Roesler, Ed Sibley, Dale Stone, Randy Williams.

34. SPIRIT LAKE (Spirit Lake, Iowa.) Dec. 19: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. -15-6; wind: 3-5 mph from South. Snow cover 100 percent, depth 6-8 inches. Water conditions, good, but all lakes and marshes completely frozen over, except for very

small patch on West Okoboji Lake and a small number of open patches on tile outlet stream or below beaver dams. Extremely cold! Overnight low prior to count was -20 degrees. After sunrise day was generally clear and sunny with very light breeze, but failed to warm up much due to continuance of high pressure in area. Very cold weather caused problems. First was that it cut expected number of county participants by more than half. Remaining field parties had to cover much more territory than in past and very likely missed some species and numbers. Second factor was that birds did not appear to be very active for first few hours after sunrise. No. of field parties, 5, field party hours, 40; No. of feeder observers, 1 (official) 8 (phone-ins); feeder party hours, 8 hrs. (official), 20 hrs. (estimated for phone-ins).

Observers: Official (paying) observers: LaVonne Foote, Doug Harr (compiler), Dennis Henrickson, Connie Johnson, Jim Marshall (compiler), Barbara Moats, Bob Moats, Loraine Wallace. Phone-in Feeder (non paying): Rev. Darold Draper, Mrs. Frank Edington, Mrs. L. Larson, Helen Mills, Lois Morgan, Leroy Morton, Verena Northey, Mavis Wunder.

35. TRISTATE 556 (mile 556 on Missouri River.) Jan. 2, 1982: 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 28-36; wind: 5-20 mph from SE then NW. 1-5 inches snow cover. Mostly frozen; some open areas on drainage ditches, Missouri River mostly open. Freezing rain and snow a.m.; overcast p.m. Some roads impassable. No. of field parties, 2, field party hours, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$; field party miles, 82; no. of feeder observers, 1, feeder party hours, 8.

Comments: Poor weather reduced coverage of area.

Observers: Paul Bedell, Tanya Bray, Charles Frisk, Ione Getscher, Jim and Sandy Kovanda, Bill and Rebecca Otto, Ross Silcock (compiler).

36. WATERLOO (42 degrees 43' N 92 degrees 14' W, center at center of Sec. 2, Maxfield Twp., Bremer Co., Iowa, as described 1973.) Dec. 19: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -10-6; wind: 5-10 mph from SE. 1-3 inch snow cover; Mostly frozen. Cold and mostly clear throughout day. No. of field parties, 3, field party hours, 25, field party miles, 290.7.

Comments: Despite another cold count day and a shortage of observers we were able to set a new record for Waterloo count at 41 sp.

Observers: Antoinette Comorata, Eleanor Corwin, Russell Hays, Peter Lowther, Francis Moore, Bob Myers (compiler), Bill Watson.

37. WESTFIELD (Section 16, Sioux Township, Plymouth County.) Jan. 3, 1982: 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. -9-13; wind: 0-12 mph, from ENE. 4-8 inch snow cover; water, 98 percent frozen. Cloudy a.m., partly sunny early p.m., began snowing, 5 p.m. No. of field parties, 3, field party hours, 22, field party miles, 123 driven, 11 walked; no. of feeder observers, 1, feeder party hours, 4.

Comments: 2 additional species, Belted Kingfisher and Northern Goshawk were seen in count area on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 respectively.

Observers: Dick and Judy Bierman, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cummins, Bill Huser, Jerry Probst, Carol and Larry Farmer (compiler).

38. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (NE corner S8, T96N, R3W.) Jan. 2, 1982: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 10-24; wind: 15-25 mph from SE. 6-10 inches snow cover; streams mostly frozen; overcast and snowing all day. No. of field parties, 3, field party hours, 16, field party miles, 167.

Observers: Francis Arness, Ruth Fretheim, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Pat and Paul Koenig, Arnold and Dolores Rohm, Joe Schaufenbuel.

Birding Iowa in 1981

THOMAS H. KENT
211 Richards Street
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

I did not really start out to do another big year in Iowa in 1981. I did want to try for two species I had not seen in Iowa: Chuck-will's-widow and Burrowing Owl.

January 1 started the year with a warm, pleasant morning of birding with Mike Newlon and Tom Shires. We saw a Pileated Woodpecker below the Coralville Reservoir dam, a flock of Evening Grosbeaks at Lake Macbride, and the Curve-billed Thrasher that had been at a feeder near Solon since fall. January 2 was a Friday and I had intended to spend the day writing, but just happened to mention to my wife Ann that we might drive down to Davenport to see the eagles (I really wanted to look for the Glaucous Gull seen on the Christmas Bird Count). The Glaucous Gull was not at Lock 14 near Pleasant Valley, but I did spot a female Oldsquaw and almost overlooked a Greater Scaup swimming near her. At Lock 15 in downtown Davenport, a second year Glaucous Gull was waiting for us, swimming on the near side of the river right next to a Herring Gull. After lunch we stopped by Fairmont Cemetery to see the White-winged Crossbills and Red-breasted Nuthatches which had been there since early winter. January 3, a bitter cold day, found Carl Bendorf and I traveling to Waterloo to see the Varied Thrush and possible Hoary Redpoll reported to us by Francis Moore. We arrived early and did not want to awaken the people at the house where the thrush had been seen. As we walked around the block Carl spotted the bird in an oak tree. The possible Hoary Redpoll was in a yard with a flock of Common Redpolls as advertised. We were not entirely convinced of the identification, but after many documentations were twice reviewed by the Records Committee and by an outside consultant, I decided to add it to the year's list. At the end of the first three days of the year my list was nearly 50 species including two accidentals and several other rarities. The question now became "When will I decide not to try for a big year?"

Shires and Kent (IBL 50:3-6, 1980) suggested that it might be possible for an individual to see 265 to 270 species in Iowa in one year. I had seen 239 in 1978 (Kent, Halmi, and Shires, 1979, IBL 49:3-8) and 253 in 1979. Bob Myers saw 256 and Francis Moore 254 species in 1980 (Birding 13:185). So far, 1981 was off to a good start. Although I expected it to stop, it did not; in fact, my luck seemed to get better as the year went by. When it was over I had seen 278 species in Iowa for 1981, many more than I had thought possible. This resulted from a rare combination of events including exceptionally favorable weather, reasonably good winter finch invasions, more rare and accidental species in the state than ever before (see COMMENTS in Field Reports in this issue), a great deal of help from other birders, intensive birding during peak migration times, previous experience in finding the specialty birds of the state (IBL 49:3-8, 50:3-6), and considerable luck.

The winter was the warmest in some years. By the first week of March I had seen almost all of the waterfowl. April is usually a dull birding month, but in 1981 many species showed up early along with some rarities. May got off to a good start with the IOU convention in Iowa City on May 2 and 3. The only adverse weather for the year occurred in summer when rains raised the water levels and ruined fall shorebird habitat. The fall was long, lasting to mid-December and producing some interesting birds. With spring starting in February there was essentially an extra month of spring. I was able to find the regular birds early and spend the extra time looking for rarities.

For the past several years I have used the strategy of marking off 200 species I expect to see for sure (I have only missed a few) and then target my birding activities toward species not on the expected list. Each month I made a list of

potential rarities and planned my birding time to maximize finding them.

The major target for January and February was owls. I was lucky in that Tom Staudt found a Saw-whet Owl in Iowa City and Charlotte Scott told me about a Snowy Owl (and Snow Buntings) at Lake Rathbun when she called to tell me about the second Curve-billed Thrasher for the year at Rathbun. It took much more time to locate Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, species which I knew could be easily missed in the fall. I also made a mid-February trip to NE Iowa to see the Golden Eagles which winter there.

March should be spent looking for the more unusual waterfowl, and 1981 was a good year to do this. Several trips to Cone M. yielded a Whistling Swan and White-fronted Geese (easy to miss in eastern Iowa). Brewer's Blackbirds also seem to be regular there in late March. I knew I should go to SW Iowa to look for Ross' Goose, but I did not think I could spare the time until Ross Silcock called about the Thayer's Gull at Lake Manawa. Pete Petersen, Tom Shires, and I were on our way the next morning at 3:30 a.m. for the five hour trip. We finally spotted the gull and had time to stop on the way home at Willow Slough where all three of us, almost at the same instant, spotted a Ross' Goose amongst thousands of Snow Geese. Other March rarities included Pine Grosbeak at the James Maish residence in State Center on March 8 and a Red-shouldered Hawk spotted by my son Bill at the Coralville Reservoir as he was taking me to the Cedar Rapids airport via the back roads.

My relatively few target birds for April, including Franklin's Gull, Winter Wren, and LeConte's Sparrow, were easily found, allowing time for a trip to NE Iowa on April 18 to listen for Ruffed Grouse. Mike Mulier, a Belgian physician training in my department, and I left at 2 a.m. for the predawn trip to Yellow River Forest where we heard several grouse drummings. Fred Lesher had written the week before about Little Blue Herons he had seen at New Albin and we were lucky enough to find one as none showed up in late summer. On the way home we stopped at White Pine Hollow and heard a Louisiana Waterthrush singing and saw a pair of Swainson's Hawks sailing overhead. I was tired when we got home at 3:30 p.m., but fortunately I had the strength to go to the Coralville Reservoir to see the Marbled Godwits which had been found by Pete Wickam and reported by Bernie and Cal Knight just before I got home. The Godwits were gone the next morning.

In addition to the planned trip to NE Iowa, the rest of April produced one rare bird after another. It seemed like every time the phone rang there was another rarity to chase. On April 1, Hank Zaletel called about the Burrowing Owl in Ames and Bill drove me down to see it while I finished my day's paper work in the car. On April 11, Mike Mulier and I ran into a flock of Smith's Longspurs on the way home from the Coralville Reservoir for the third state record in 50 years. On April 13, I saw the Cattle Egret found by Tom Staudt at the Reservoir. On April 17, James Huntington called about the Bewick's Wren in Iowa City which later nested. On April 23, I made an early morning trip to Montezuma where Darwin Koenig showed me a Snowy Egret. On April 26, I got home at noon after a quiet morning birding with Rick Hollis and learned of a possible Prairie Warbler at Hickory Hill Park. I did not find it but when I got back Carl Bendorf had called about a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Amana. Two days later James Huntington called about a Hooded Warbler just west of Iowa City. I went out after work and heard it sing and got home just as the hamburgers were going on the table. But Carl had called again, this time about an Arctic Loon at Amana. I grabbed the hamburgers and got to Amana with just enough light to get a good look at the loon. On April 30, Tom Staudt and I went to Muskrat Slough to search for Yellow Rails. Instead we found an early Least Bittern and a Peregrine Falcon. April was not a dull birding month

after all.

May is the best month for birding in Iowa, so as much time as possible should be spent in the field and many habitat areas covered. My strategy was to bird every morning, go on several all day trips, and bird nearly continuously during ten days of vacation. It is easy to bird from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. and still get in a full day's work. Big days are exhausting 3:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. affairs covering 250 or so miles by car.

On May 2, Cal Knight found Avocets at the Coralville Reservoir and I rushed out to see them between the business meeting and the banquet of the IOU meeting and got a Willet as a bonus. Early morning birding produced a Yellow-breasted Chat at Hickory Hill Park on May 4 and Worm-eating Warbler at Wildcat Den State Park on May 6. My vacation from May 8 to 17 included big days on May 9, 11, and 13. On the 9th Carl Bendorf, Tom Staudt, and I took our usual eastern Iowa route to Cone Marsh, Wildcat Den State Park, Muskrat Slough, Palisades-Kepler State Park, Coralville Reservoir, and Amana and saw 146 species including Western Grebe, Hudsonian Godwit, and White-eyed Vireo. On the 11th Carl, Pete Petersen, Ross Silcock, and I took nearly the same route but also went east to Davenport and Goose Lake and saw 147 species including a Common Tern. The next day Ross and I headed for SW Iowa via SE Iowa and saw Acadian Flycatcher at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park in the SE and Buff-breasted Sandpipers near Ross' house in SW Iowa. That night we went to the northeast corner of Wabonsie State Park below the loess hills to hear the Chuck-will's-widows that had been discovered as resident there last year. Ross was hoping for a record big day in Fremont, Mills, and Pottawattamie Counties on the 13th. (He, Tom Shires, and I had seen 150 species there in 1980) and was disappointed with 132 species and practically no warblers. On the other hand, I was ecstatic over our finds: Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Piping Plover, Western Kingbird, and Summer Tanager. In addition we heard a Clay-colored Sparrow, a bird I thought I had missed.

By May 15, my list stood at 254 for the year eclipsing my old record. Four more regular species and four rarities were added during the rest of May. The rarities were; Northern Phalarope at Coralville Reservoir on the 16th, Connecticut Warbler at Hickory Hill Park on the 17th, Cape May Warbler found in an Iowa City cemetery on the 18th by Tom Staudt, and Common Gallinule at Green Island on the 23rd.

The strategy for birding from June to December would be quite different. My count was 262 species, so I thought I might have a shot at 270. I listed 23 species that I might look for. Some of these were local specialties that I could travel to look for and the rest would require lots of birding time in specific habitats to have a chance of finding them. I ended up finding 11 of the 23 plus 4 more that I had not listed and I added the Hoary Redpoll to make 278.

In June, I went to Jim Sandrock's cabin near Keosauqua to see his resident Yellow-throated Warbler, to Hayden Prairie with Tom Staudt to see Henslow's Sparrow, to the Missouri River bottoms to see Blue Grosbeak which I had missed earlier, to Plymouth County to have Eldon Bryant show me Say's Phoebe, and to Dickinson County to find Gray Partridge by driving back roads early in the morning as suggested by Doug Harr.

The lack of shorebird habitat in July and August prevented my having a good chance for the three shorebirds I had missed in the spring: Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Baird's Sandpiper. These three species were found by others in late May, a time when I was not out much.

On August 28, a typical hot, late summer day, I took a half-hearted trip to Cone

Marsh with the outside hope for a Little Tern, but instead saw a Black Rail walk across an opening in the marsh. At the fall IOU meeting in Davenport I was hoping that Pete Petersen could show me one of his many Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, but none could be found. However, two weeks later on September 19, Carl Bendorf located one at Hickory Hill Park and it sang, a rare event for this species in fall migration. The next day I returned the favor by finding a Pine Warbler for Carl in the same location.

By October, there were not many species left on my possible list. I remembered an article mentioning White-winged and Surf Scoters being shot at the Keokuk Pool in fall. So, on October 25, a rainy day, Mike Newlon, Mike Mulier, and I went on a trip to explore the lower Mississippi. At our last stop east of Fort Madison, four White-winged Scoters flew by.

There were three target birds left for November and December. I picked up Lapland Longspur, the only species left on my list of 200 expected species, one Saturday when my wife and I took the back roads to my daughter's house. Red Crossbills were in the parking lot on a weekend that I spent at the office. That left Northern Shrike, a bird that I had been looking for in March when the Red-shouldered Hawk was found. A November trip to northeast Iowa in search of the shrike was unsuccessful even though I ran into Joe Schaufenbuel and John Robinson who had seen two already that day.

On November 16, Mike Newlon got bored with the same football game I was watching on TV and went to Hickory Hill Park and found a Northern Goshawk. His long hike to a telephone and back in the rain allowed Tom Staudt, Rick Hollis, and I to see the bird. On December 5, Bob Myers called about an immature Black-legged Kittiwake at Dubuque and I got there the next morning at 7:00 a.m. to see it. He did not warn me about the Christmas present that was to follow. I got the call early in the evening of Christmas day about the Hawk Owl at Waterloo and again I was there by 7:00 a.m. to see it. Francis Moore gave me directions to several locations of Northern Shrikes near Sweet Marsh and I found one at the first stop. This was to be the last species for the year.

In retrospect, there was only one big miss for the year. The Black-headed Grosbeak at Don and Jean Moeller's house near LeClaire was there all day on December 13, but did not show itself between 7 and 10 a.m. the next day when Tom Staudt and I were there but did show up for Bernie and Cal Knight at noon. With the help of Ross Silcock, I also tried to find the Prairie Falcon seen at DeSoto NWR in late December, but I was not surprised when we did not find it. Other birds that I heard about but did not chase were Cinnamon Teal at Saylorville Reservoir in April reported by Hank Zaletel and a late Black-throated Blue Warbler at Waterloo in September reported by Bob Myers. Two species that I might have had a chance at but did not know about were Little Tern at DeSoto NWR in August and Mute Swan in Marshall County in September.

At the end of the year I had seen 260 of the 275 species on the IOU Field Checklist. Besides those mentioned above, I missed Merlin, King Rail, Whimbrel, Barn Owl, Alder Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. In addition, I had seen 8 of 13 casual species and 10 of 13 accidental species found in the state for the year.

Of the 78 species not on my list of 200 expected species, I would judge that 34 were found by looking in the right place at the right time, 19 were encountered by luck, and 25 were seen because fellow birders told me about them.

It is difficult to see how 1981 could have been any better for birding Iowa. It would be nice to be able to bird western Iowa looking in winter for Prairie Falcon and Ferruginous Hawk, in late spring for Lazuli Bunting and Lark Bunting, and in

late summer for Little Tern. On the other hand, eastern Iowa provides a convenient base to look for most of the state's regular birds and many of the casuals and accidentals. My conclusions are that birding Iowa can be a lot of fun and there are an awful lot of friendly, helpful fellow birders to meet in the state.

FIELD REPORTS



WINTER 1981 - 1982

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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

While early December was generally mild, a vigorous outbreak of Arctic-like weather from 15-20 December caused temperatures throughout the state to average almost 2 degrees below normal. Elements averaging near normal during December included precipitation, cloudiness, wind speeds, and percents of sunshine and snowfall.

January deserves special attention for it was one of Iowa's most wintry months since 1936. Cold, cloudy, windy, and snowy, the month averaged more than 11 degrees subnormal temperature, and wind movement exceeded the normal by some 20 percent. The 18 inches snowfall average was just two inches short of the all-time record of 20 inches set in 1979. Strong winds were frequent, often exceeding 30 miles per hour and on 20 days exceeded 20 miles per hour. As the result, blowing snow was reported on at least one third of the days in the month, and highways and sideroads were frequently closed or dangerous to travel. Most localities reported that snow cover was deepest toward the end of the month and ranged from 15-20 inches in the south to 40 or more inches in the north, with 61.5 inches recorded at Dorchester. Snow depths at the end of the month varied from five inches in southern Iowa to near 20 inches in the north central area.

Temperatures during January were the lowest in memory — especially in the first two weeks of the month. A reading of -37 degrees at Anamosa on 10 January has been exceeded only three times in the last 70 years. The wind-chill factor on 9-10 January reached -60 to -90 degrees F. — the worst in memory. The bitter cold moderated during the last two weeks of the month to more normal readings. The January liquid equivalent precipitation averaged 1.83 inches which, coupled with December snowfalls and the lack of substantial melting, indicated a large quantity of frozen water covering Iowa.

The month of February saw a gradual return to more agreeable weather patterns. Precipitation was slight and temperatures rose to levels which permitted a gradual thawing condition, thus in general avoiding flash floods, too rapid runoff, etc. While there were a few nights of low temperatures, the generally higher daytime readings and the lack of winds provided a pleasant month to Iowa which had suffered through one of the coldest, snowiest, windiest winters on record.

GENERAL TRENDS

The cold winter was noted for its lack of overwintering migrants. However, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were present in large numbers throughout the period. There was a moderate invasion of Common

Redpolls which seemed to accentuate in mid-January. Both Red- and White-winged Crossbills were frequently found. The fall invasion of Northern Goshawk was confirmed by many winter sightings. The distinct warming trend in the last half of February was accompanied by influx of waterfowl in SW Iowa and Eastern Bluebirds and Red-winged Blackbirds were on the move in late February. An American Woodcock on 22 Feb. was distinctly early.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The Hawk Owl wintering at Waterloo had to be the most exciting event of the season. A Hoary Redpoll at Eldora was also observed by many. There was an invasion of Prairie Falcons into Western Iowa. The two immature Black-legged Kittiwakes fit with known vagrancy patterns of this species but were quite unusual for Iowa. Iowa's fourth Black-headed Grosbeak stayed only two days at LeClaire. Other less rare species sighted include Mute Swan, Ross' Goose, White-winged Scoter, Varied Thrush, and Bohemian Waxwing. Two winter records of Water Pipit were most unusual. Other rare winter sightings included Whistling Swan, arctic Great Horned Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Northern Oriole. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from August.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: 1 was late at Saylorville Res. on 12 Dec (JSb).

Eared Grebe: 1 was quite late at Saylorville Res. on 5, 16 Dec. (JSb, JR).

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 on 4 Dec. at L. Manawa (TB, BP) and 2 on 5 Dec. at Saylorville Res. (JR, JSb).

American White Pelican: 1 at Bay's Branch on 23 Dec. (RC) is very unusual (see CBC).

Double-crested Cormorant: Singles lingering into Dec. were seen at L. Manawa on 4 Dec. (TB, BP), Dubuque on 6 Dec. (FM, RMy, RHa), Story Co. on 6 Dec. (JR, JSb), Saylorville Res. on 13 Dec. (JSb), and Coralville Res. on 19 Dec. (TK).

Great Blue Heron: 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 5 Dec. (JR, JSb) and another at Rathbun Res. on 29 Dec. (BHeu).

Mute Swan: 1 was documented at LeClaire, Scott Co., on 21 Feb. (+RHo, CB, TK), possibly the same bird that was reported in Dec. (fide PP). Another was reported from the Cedar Rapids Sewage Pond on 30 Jan. (Rich Patterson fide DN).

Whistling Swan: An immature was reported at Red Rock Res. on 19 Jan. (RT), a most unusual winter record.

Canada Goose: 4,000 were heading down the Mississippi R. e. of Davenport on 3 Jan. (LB fide PP) and 300 were flying through the snow in Iowa City on 4 Jan. (TStau). Wintering birds were noted at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. (JV), Waterloo (RMy), Bettendorf and Burlington (PP), Cedar Rapids (CB), and Des Moines (JR). The first migrants were noted in SW Iowa on 21 Feb. (BWi).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 wintered at Rock Valley in NW Iowa (JV).

Snow Goose: Migration began in SW Iowa on 19-21 Feb. (IG, BWa, BWi) and reached 150,000 on 26 Feb. (RP).

Ross' Goose: 1 was at Riverton A. on 19 Dec. (+RSi, BWi) and three were near there on 26 Feb. (+RP).

Wood Duck: Singles wintered at Rock Valley (JV) and Waterloo (RMy).

American Wigeon: 1 wintered at Waterloo (RMy, FM).

Gadwall: 4-6 wintered at Waterloo (RMy, FM), 4 were at IPL Settling Ponds s. of Council Bluffs on 28 Feb. (TB, BP, LP).

Green-winged Teal: 1 was late at Waterloo on 20 Dec. (RMy).

Mallard: Wintering flocks were reported from Rock Valley, Waterloo, Cedar

Rapids, Saylorville Res. and Burlington.

American Black Duck: 10 wintered at Waterloo (RMy, FM).

Common Pintail: 12 were at Forney L. by 28 Feb. (TB, BP, LP).

Blue-winged Teal: 2 were late at L. Macbride on 6 Dec. (JPS).

Canvasback: 2 were at LeClaire, Scott Co., on 21 Feb. (TK, CB, Rho).

Greater Scaup: A female was identified by head shape and wing stripe at LeClaire, Scott Co., on 14 Dec. (TK).

Lesser Scaup: 6 were at IPL Settling Ponds on 28 Feb. (TB, BP, LP).

Oldsquaw: A female remained at Red Rock Res. until 4, 13 Dec. (RT, GB).

White-winged Scoter: A female was reported from Red Rock Res. on 4 Dec. (RT, GB).

Common Goldeneye: First migrants appeared at Waterloo on 20 Feb. (RMy).

VULUTRES THROUGH TURKEY

Bald Eagle: 298 were found on a 13 Jan. survey from s. of Burlington to Lock 14 in Scott Co., the highest number ever recorded (PP). Midwinter records away from the eastern and western borders of the state were 6 Feb. at Waterloo (RMy, FM, RC), 7 Feb. in Polk Co. (DMos), 9 Jan. at Ledges SP (DB, TB).

Northern Goshawk: In addition to those reported for the CBC, there were the following documented sightings: 12 Dec. at Volga River RA (+RMy, RHa), 15 Feb. at Big Creek L., Polk Co. (+PM, +HZ), and 25 Feb. at Ledges SP (+DN).

Cooper's Hawk: An adult and immature were well described from Winneshiek Co. on 28 Feb. (RB, CB, MB). Others were reported from L. Macbride on 12 Dec. (JPS, TStau) and Lucas Co. on 18 Jan. (Willie Suchy fide JD).

Red-tailed Hawk: Krider's Hawks were noted at Shenandoah on 12 Feb. (BWa) and Oak Grove SP, Sioux Co., on 28 Dec. (JV).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reports were from Amana on 31 Jan. (CB, JPS) and Sweet M. on 19, 29 Dec. (RMy, PP).

Rough-legged Hawk: Only 14 were reported and several contributors commented on their scarcity in NW Iowa (DBi, JV).

Golden Eagle: Details were given for an immature at Lock 14, Scott Co., on 12 Jan. (Elton Fawks fide PP).

Prairie Falcon: 5 sightings were documented with the black axillaries seen in all cases: 19 Dec. of Sioux City (+see CBC), 20 Dec. at DeSoto NWR (+BWi, see CBC), 27 Jan. in Emmet Co. (+Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moats), 6 Feb. s. of Sioux Center (+JV), and 20 Feb. in Story Co. (+Kevin Martin). Another was reported from Sioux Co. (Ken Hollinger fide JV).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Flocks of 100 were noted in Hardin Co. (BPr et al).

Gray Partridge: Reports were from Guthrie (RMy, FM, RHa), Hardin (BPr, PH, GS), Howard (RB, CB), and Wright (RC) Cos.

Wild Turkey: Reports were from Peterson, Clay Co. (DBi), Boone Co. (JR), Amana (CB), and W. Johnson Co. (JPS).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

American Coot: 1 lingered at Saylorville Res. until 14 Dec. (JD).

Killdeer: An early migrant was near Cone M. on 21 Feb. (RHo, CB, TK).

American Woodcock: 1 at Centerville in the Heusinkvelds' yard on 22 Feb. is a record early date.

Common Snipe: 1 was at Sioux Center on 25 Dec. (JV).

Herring Gull: Most were driven south by the cold winter. Only 30 were seen in Scott Co. on 21 Feb. (TK, CB, RHo).

Thayer's Gull: Several reported in Nov. and Dec. are being reviewed by the Records Committee. Results later.

Ring-billed Gull: Large late fall concentrations were noted: 2,000 on 6 Dec. (JD)

and 600-700 on 14 Dec. at Saylorville Res. (JD), and 1,000 at Red Rock Res. on 4 Dec. (RT).

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 at Red Rock Res. on 4 Dec. (RT) and 20 at Saylorville Res. on 16 Dec. (JSb) were unusually late.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Immatures are occasional fall vagrants in the Midwest. Two were well documented this season: 6-7 Dec. at Dubuque (+RMy, +FM, +TK) and 10-17 Dec. at Saylorville Res. (+JSb). (See longer notes).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 1 was noted in Emmet Co. on 1 Jan. (DHe) and 13 in Cherokee Co. on 23 Feb. (MB).

Common Screech Owl: A red phase bird was noted in Cherokee on 9 Feb. (DBi).

Great Horned Owl: Details were given for one of the arctic race in Sioux Co. on 29 Dec. (JV).

Snowy Owl: These reports were received: 24, 27 Dec. in Howard Co. (Ron Munkel fide JD), 29 Dec. at Durant (PP, m. ob.), 8 Feb. w. of Newton (+MM), and 27 Feb. n. of Mason City (CN).

Hawk Owl: The most exciting bird of this cold winter set up territory at the junction of highways 63 and 218 in Waterloo from 25 Dec. to 25 Feb. (+RMy, +FM, +m. ob.).

Long-eared Owl: 6 at DeSoto NWR on 19 Jan. (Dave Menke, TB); 1 at Big Creek SP on 27 Feb. (JR).

Short-eared Owl: 1 at Dysart on 30 Dec. (CB); 1 in N. Palo Alto Co. on 8 Feb. (DHe); 1 at Oak Grove P., Sioux Co., on 13 Feb. (JV); 1 at Eldora on 14 Feb. (PH, GS fide BPr).

Saw-whet Owl: 1-3 at Ledges SP from 13 Dec.-21 Feb. (m. ob.); 1 at George Wyth SP from 25 Dec. to 30 Jan. (FM); 1 at Davenport on 15 Jan. (PP, BB).

Belted Kingfisher: 1 was on the Floyd R. in Sioux City on 8 Jan. (DBi) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Feb. (JR, JSb).

Common Flicker: Red-shafted Flickers were noted in NE Mills Co. on 6, 13 Feb. (BWi) and in Story Co. on 21 Feb. (George and Gordon Brown, Steve Dinsmore fide JD).

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 was at the Saylorville Dam on 12 Dec. (JSb).

Red-headed Woodpecker: More than usual were noted in NE Mills Co. where the acorn crop was good (BWi) and at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (JV).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Singles were noted in January at Davenport (PP), Council Bluffs (CSch), Ames (JR), and Shenandoah (MBV).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A well-documented late report was received of one in Marshall Co. on 29 Aug. (+Philip Grobenbauer).

Horned Lark: Large numbers overwintered and were seen along snowy roads in Jan. On 9 Jan. 1,000 were reported from Adair to Black Hawk Cos. (TB, DB). The peaks between NE Mills Co. and Council Bluffs (35 mi.) were 250 on 2 Dec. and 220 on 6 Jan. with great fluctuation from day to day (BWi).

American Crow: Does Iowa State University attract Crows? One observer noted 500-750 wintering in Ames (HZ) and another reported 1400 at the University on 17 Feb. (JD).

Tufted Titmouse: The population at the Wilson farm in NE Mills Co. dropped to zero this winter. Two each were reported from Ledges SP on 30 Jan. (JR) and Dallas Co. on 28 Feb. (RC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Small numbers were reported from many areas throughout the state.

American Robin: A few wintering flocks and scattered individuals were reported:

133 s. of Cherokee on 13 Feb. (DBi), 100 at Hamburg on 6 Jan. (IG), and 20 at Council Bluffs on 13 Jan. (CSch).

Varied Thrush: One near Maysville, Scott Co., 16 Jan. had been present for about two weeks (+PP, et al). I heard rumors of another, but received no specific report or documentation.

Eastern Bluebird: 1-4 were noted in the last week of Feb. at Hamburg (IG), Boone Co. (JR, Jim Kienzler fide JD), NE Mills Co. (BWi), and Dallas Co. (RC). At least 50 were seen at Sweet M. on 28 Feb. (RMy, FM). These reports suggest a distinct migration associated with the warming trend during the last two weeks of Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The only report was from Ames on 13 Feb. (JR).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One was seen at L. Macbride on 19 Dec. (+JPS).

Water Pipit: A fifth Dec. record for the state was from Saylorville Res. on 12, 13 Dec. (JSb) and one at Pocahontas on 27 Feb. (+WJ) is either the first winter record or earliest spring record for the state.

Bohemian Waxwing: Details were given for one in Ames on 1 Feb. (JSb). One on the Sioux City CBC was apparently the only record for 1981.

Cedar Waxwing: 350 were seen s. of Cherokee on 13 Feb. (DBi).

Northern Shrike: The most southerly record was from Polk Co. (+JR). Others, generally with good details, were from the following counties Winneshiek (RB, CB), Fayette (RMy), Bremer (RMy, FM, TK), Black Hawk (RMy, CB), Butler (RMy), Cherokee (MB), and Sioux (JV).

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 wintered at Pleasantville, Marion Co. (RT) and one was at Shenandoah on 12, 13, Feb. (BWa).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: There was an undocumented report from Des Moines on 22 Feb. (CL fide RL).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Meadowlark sp.: Few were noted: 2 at Cherokee on 13 Feb. (DBi) and 1 in Guthrie Co. on 27 Feb. (RC). An Eastern Meadowlark was singing at Centerville on 28 Feb. (BG, MH).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 was well-described at a feeder in Ottumwa on 3 Jan. (+Hayden Evans fide Nelson Haskins).

Red-winged Blackbird: Migrating flocks were noted at Jewell, Hamilton Co. (JD) and Cherokee (MB) on 23 Feb. and Waterloo on 28 Feb. (RMy).

Northern Oriole: Documentation and photographs were submitted of a female Bullock's Oriole at Cedar Falls on 20 Dec. (+RMy) and a male Baltimore Oriole was described at a feeder in Pleasant Valley, Scott Co., on 30 Dec. (PP).

Rusty Blackbird: Migrants were noted on 26 Feb. in NE Mills Co. (BWi) and on 28 Feb. at Sweet M. (FM, RMy).

Black-headed Grosbeak: A subadult male showed up at the feeder of Don and Jean Moeller at LeClaire, Scott Co., on 13 Dec. (+PP, MLP) and was seen the next afternoon (Cal and Bernie Knight fide TK) for the fourth state record. Photographs by Don Moeller are on file.

Evening Grosbeak: Few were reported this winter. Firsthand reports were 1 at Waterloo on 30 Jan. (RMy, FM) and 1-2 wintering in N. Polk Co. (DMos). The bird reported earlier at Shenandoah on 17 Sep. 1981 was actually seen on 17 Nov. (RP).

Purple Finch: Reports suggest normal wintering numbers.

Hoary Redpoll: 1 at the feeder of Nancy Slife near Eldora was seen by many and well-documented (+NS, +RHo, +HZ) and photographed (John Hoogerheide). Another was documented from Pocahontas (+WJ). These records will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

Common Redpoll: This was a moderate invasion year with most contributors reporting some and many noted an influx beginning in mid-Jan. The highest number was 300 at Decorah on 1 Jan. (JSb).

Pine Siskin: Most observers reported some.

Red Crossbill: Flocks of 3-8 were widely reported throughout the period from Iowa City, Waterloo, Dubuque and Cherokee.

White-winged Crossbill: There were more reports than for Red Crossbills, a reverse of the usual occurrences: 10 at Davenport on 1 Dec. (PP), 18 on 12-17 Dec. at West Union (JSb), 20 on 9 Dec. at Waterloo (RMy), 1 on 17 Dec. at Iowa City (RHo), 2 on 28 Dec. at Rock Valley (JV), 10 at Clear L. on 10 Jan. (Bill Ohde fide JD), 1 at Ames on 6 Feb. (JR).

Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 of the western race spent the winter at Cherokee (DBi).

Vesper Sparrow: 1 was triply documented in NE Mills Co. on 23 Dec. 5, 7 Jan. (+BW).

Field Sparrow: 1 was at a Burlington feeder in Jan. (JF).

Harris' Sparrow: Wintering birds were noted from Eldora (BPr), Ames (PM), N. Polk Co. (DMos), Pleasantville (RT), Sioux Co. (JV), and Shenandoah (MBV, BWa).

White-crowned Sparrow: 8 wintered at Shenandoah (BWa) and 1 was at Cone M. on 27 Feb. (JPS, JKS).

White-throated Sparrow: 1-3 wintered at an Iowa City feeder (TK); Davenport birds left on 24 Dec. (PP). Singles were seen in Iowa City on 24 Dec. (JPS) and Waterloo on 30 Jan. (FM, RMy).

Fox Sparrow: 8 were in Davenport on 24 Dec. (PP) and 1 at Ames on 7 Feb. (TB, BP).

Lapland Longspur: Many overwintered in Sioux Co. (JV) and a few at Waterloo (RMy). Other reports were 25-30 at Coralville on 5 Jan. (TStau), 2 at Durant on 7 Jan. (PP), 10 at Pocahontas on 23 Jan. (RC), and 5 in Story Co. on 24 Jan. (HZ).

Snow Bunting: Many were reported throughout the period. The largest flocks were 400-500 n. of Stout, Grundy Co., on 30 Dec. (RMy), 400 near Denver, Bremer Co., on 19 Dec. (RMy), and 200 near Ledges SP on 9 Jan. (TB, DB).

CONTRIBUTORS

Russell Baldner, Calmar; Carl Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Tanya Bray, Omaha, NE; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames; Jane Fuller, Burlington; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Nelson Haskins, Ottumwa; Dennis Henrickson, Estherville; Bill Heusinkveldt, Centerville; Marjorie Heusinkveldt, Centerville; Rick Hollis, Iowa City; Wallace Jardine, Pocahontas; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Rene Laubach, Des Moines; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Mary Musgrove, Des Moines; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Curt Nelson, Mason City; David A. Newhouse, Boone; Muriel Orrick, Cedar Falls; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; John Robinson, Ames; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas; Conrad F. Schlemmer, Council Bluffs; Nancy Slife, Eldora; Thomas Staudt, Iowa City; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Mary Beth Vaughn, Shenandoah; Betty Walters, Shenandoah; Barbara Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames.

OTHER OBSERVERS

Cathryn Balder (RB); Margret Balder (RB); Brian Blevins (PP); Lewis Blevins (PP); Don Bray (TB); Barbara Cunningham (MBV, BWa); Phyllis Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (RMy); Christyna Laubach (RL); Babs Padelford (TB);

Loren Padelford (TB); Mary Lou Petersen (PP); Mark Proescholdt (BPr); Johanna K. Sandrock (JPS); Garnita Seward (BPr); Ramona Sommerlot (BPr); Marie Spears (RP); Linda Zaletel (JR).

COMMENTS

The response to my request for help with the weather was gratifying. Most contributors gave weather information and Jim Sandrock not only offered to write the weather section, but did. In the following two paragraphs he summarizes the weather for 1981 and acknowledges the source of the information. In the future, contributors should continue to mention noteworthy weather events and, especially, habitat conditions. Personal field observations are a valuable source of information which, when incorporated with data from official records, will insure a more valid, comprehensive report of these important factors.

The year 1981 was the warmest calendar year in Iowa since 1954, primarily because the first four months of the year averaged 5.2 degrees warmer than normal. The warm, windy, dry days during early 1981 resulted in many dust storms, particularly in western and central Iowa where rainfall had been short since December 1979. The warm first four months closed out the 1980-81 snowfall season in which a total of only 15.2 inches fell — less than half the normal 32.5. Only two seasons in 89 years recorded less snowfall. The last eight months of 1981 reversed the 13-month long warm pattern to average nearly one-half degree subnormal. June 1981 reversed an 18-month dry pattern which was particularly intense over western and central Iowa. Also noteworthy in 1981 were the record hail on 23 June and the record rains, primarily over south central Iowa, on the night of 3-4 July.

Weather information for **IBL** is now being furnished by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and by the State Climatologist's Office. Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) — National Weather Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce are included in this information. Special thanks are due Mrs. Jane W. Weideman for her gracious assistance. In this and subsequent weather information included in the Field Reports, departures from normal are based on the mean for 1941-1970.

Not only was the weather favorable in 1981, but the birds responded by being seen in record numbers. According to my calculations 300 species were authenticated in Iowa in 1981, up from 287 in 1980 (**IBL** 51:34) and 291 in 1979 (**IBL** 50:28).

Of the 275 species on the current Field Checklist only the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was not definitely substantiated. It was reported but not considered unequivocal by the Records Committee. See next issue for a late report of a Barn Owl. There were 13 Casual (some soon to be reclassified as Regular) species recorder: Red-necked Grebe, Ross' Goose, White-winged Scoter, Sandhill Crane, Glaucous Gull, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Pine Grosbeak, and Lark Bunting. There were also 13 Accidental species found: Arctic Loon, White-faced Ibis, Prairie Falcon, Black Rail, Thayer's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Hawk Owl, Burrowing Owl, Curve-billed Thrasher, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll, and Smith's Longspur. Whimbrel, currently on the Field Checklist, should be added to the list of Accidentals. Please let me know if I have missed any. The future should tell the degree to which the good birding this year was due to more extensive birding or to increased vagrancy of the birds.

I am most grateful to Donna Sandrock for her professional job in typing the field reports.

Iowa's First Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulua*)

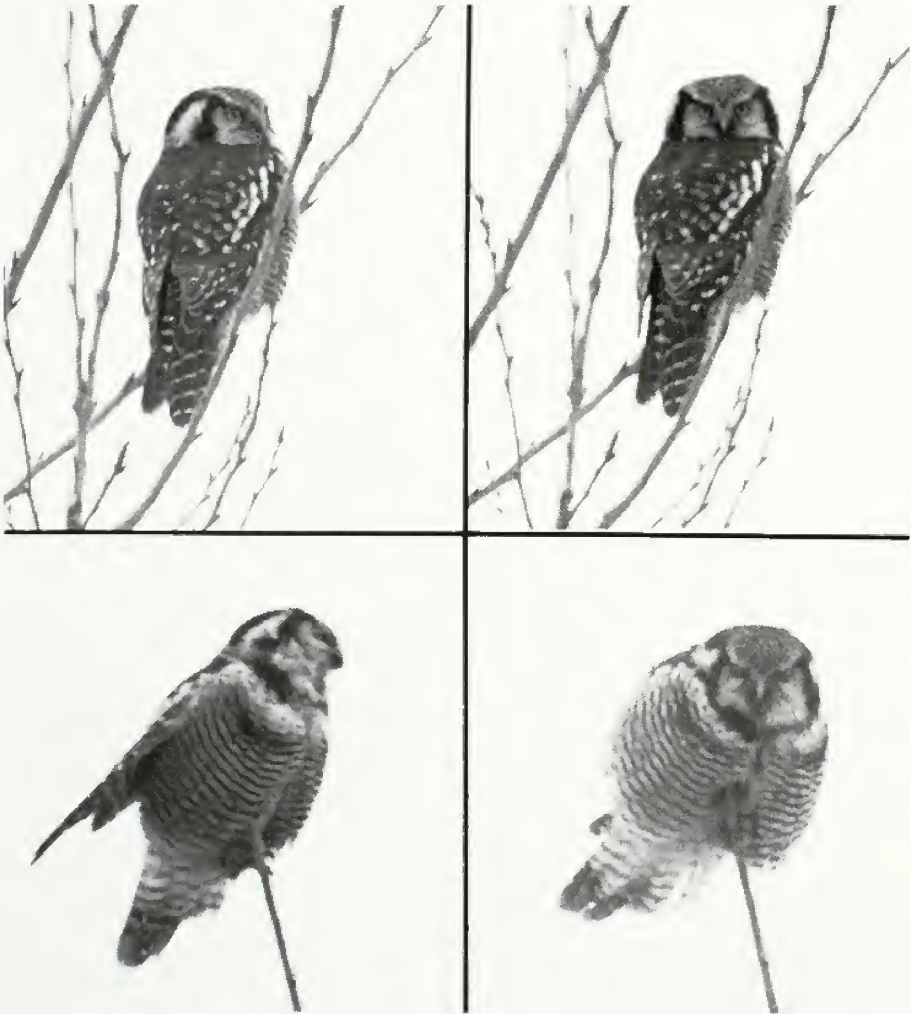
BOB MYERS

1236 Sylvia Ave.

Waterloo, Iowa 50701

On the afternoon of Dec. 25, 1981 I was returning home from our family's traditional Christmas dinner when I noticed an unusual bird perched along Highway 218 in Waterloo. A rounded head, tapering body, and long tail were visible even as I drove by. I half-jokingly told my wife that it sure looked like a Hawk Owl. I grabbed my binoculars and camera at home and raced back to the bird's tree. Identification was easy and positive — a Hawk Owl!

Description: The Hawk Owl is certainly not a difficult bird to recognize.



HAWK OWL
Photos by T.H. Kent

1. Size and shape — The bird was crow size or slightly smaller. The head was large and rounded as in other owls but the body seemed more tapered and the tail was long.

2. Color, feather patterns, etc. — The owl had light gray facial discs that were framed in black. The bird had a dark upper breast or throat band with a wider white band just below it. From the white band on down, the breast and belly were light gray covered with fine dark horizontal bars. The back and wings were brown-gray with white spots. The tail was barred. The eyes were yellow and the hooked beak was very pale yellow.

3. Behavior — In flight the Hawk Owl was swift and direct, like an accipiter, with rapid wing beats. It would usually swoop up and land in the very highest part of a tree very much like a shrike. The bird would occasionally jerk its tail up and down in Kestrel fashion. The owl was quite tame and would perch at the tip top of a tree and it usually sat at a slight angle to the branch it was on not perpendicular to it as with most owls.

The bird represents the first Iowa record of the Hawk Owl to be supported by photographs and documentation. The only other Iowa records are unreliable and not supported by data. E. James, 1823, in *Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains Performed in the Years 1819, 1820* list the bird among others from this area but has no details. Anderson, 1907, included the Hawk Owl in his book *Birds of Iowa* on the basis of two reports from George H. Berry that he had taken a Hawk Owl in Iowa and observed another in December 1903 near Cedar Rapids, Linn County. No specimen or any other details can be found.

This Hawk Owl was very cooperative always being in the same area so many, and I mean many, birders could find it. I am sure the newly-founded Iowa Birdline was very helpful in spreading word of the sighting. I received calls from birders from as far as Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Kansas City who heard about the bird on the Iowa Birdline and were coming to Iowa to see it.

Literature Cited

- Anderson, R.M. 1907. The Birds of Iowa. *Proc. Davenport Academy of Sciences*, p. 267.
 James, E. 1823. *Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains Performed in the Years 1819, 1820* London, Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown. p. 371.

GENERAL NOTES



Black-legged Kittiwake at Saylorville Reservoir — While birding the grassy north shore of the Saylorville Dam around 11:00 a.m. on 12 December 1981, I noticed a very different gull flying nearby over the lake.

My first impression was that it was a Sabine's Gull as the wing pattern consisted of dark primaries and a light triangular patch on the trailing half of the wing. The gull seemed trimmer — slimmer and smaller — than the hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls on the lake and larger than the Bonaparte's which were still on the lake. As the gull flew by a moment later, I got a good look at it and quickly began taking notes.

Its bill was slimmer than a Ring-billed's and all black. The underparts were white. The head was white with a small oval spot just below and behind the eyes. It had a bar on its nape. The back from the nape bar to the rump was gray. The wings were gray, lighter on the trailing edge, with a bar extending from the middle of the base to the wrist, which contrasted with the overall color of the wing. The primaries were dark, nearly black. The tail was white, notched, and had a terminal band.

Consulting Robbin's field guide I found that it was not a Sabine's Gull, but a Black-legged Kittiwake in immature plumage.

I contacted Dick Mooney in Des Moines who later joined me along with his wife and Margaret Brooke to observe the bird. We watched the bird for about 45 minutes after which time I birded other parts of the lake. At 3:30 p.m. I returned to the dam to view the bird one last time swimming not more than 100 feet from shore. Other birders were contacted and could not find the bird the next day. JOE SCHAUFENBUEL, St. Lucas.

Black-legged Kittiwake at Dubuque — On 6 Dec, 1981 Russell Hays, Francis Moore, and I were observing a mixed group of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls at Lock and Dam 11 at Dubuque, Iowa, when Russell picked out an odd looking gull. Francis quickly located the bird in his field guide and confirmed that we were indeed looking at an immature Black-legged Kittiwake. The bird was judged to be about the same size as a Ring-billed Gull as we watched it feed with the other gulls. The dark spot behind the eye and the black bar on the nape of the neck were easily noted on the basically white gull. The black wing tips with no white spots and the black slashes running diagonally from the bend in the wings to the back were very distinctive. We also observed the slightly forked tail with a black terminal band. Tom Kent from Iowa City relocated the bird the next day. This sighting represents the fourth Iowa record of the Black-legged Kittiwake to be supported by positive documentation from more than one observer. There are also two other records.

The Kittiwake was viewed in excellent light at distances of 100' to 300' with 7x35 binoculars and a 20x scope. BOB MYERS, 1236 Sylvia Ave., Waterloo, Iowa.

Final Report of the "One Day Eagle Counts" — For the past three years the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center has conducted an annual January National Eagle Count. I still coordinate the Mississippi River count.

With the Raptor Information Center having State coordinators who publish their results, it is no longer necessary for me to publish mine. Each year my accounts have appeared in the *Illinois Audubon Bulletin* and *Iowa Bird Life*. Other articles on eagles might be written for these journals. The reports summary that follows will show the results of four periods of five years each.

year	adults	immatures	not aged	total	percentage of immatures
1977	622	274	30	926	30
1978	977	416	53	1446	30
1979	1077	300	30	1407	22
1980	992	422	5	1419	30
1981	1094	382	35	1511	26
Total	4762	1794	153	6709	27.2

In the above figures which includes all of Illinois, the Mississippi River along Illinois border and along Tennessee and Kentucky, as well as inland in Kentucky. These are the areas I used in my counts. Areas covered each year are fairly consistent. It is not possible to have the exact coverage each year. My counts were mostly designed to show immature total population ratios.

1962-66 20 percent; 1967-71 28 percent; 1972-76 29 percent; 1977-81 percent.

In the three years of NWF counts the percentages were, 1979, 35 percent; 1980, 36 percent; 1981, 32.67 percent. In my earlier printed remarks, I pointed out that during the first period, DDT was used, in the second it was being phased out, in the third it was banned. This would show increases due to decreased use of DDT. I am at a loss to explain the lower percentage in the 5 years 1977-81. The Raptor reports show a decline in immatures in 1981. If anything, it shows that we cannot be too optimistic about our Bald Eagle's future. Winter protection is a MUST. This shows the value of the winter counts.

I will continue with my Mississippi River and other counts as in the past. Lockmasters and Fish & Wildlife people have supplied me with useful data for over 20 years. At each site I make graphs showing eagle usage.

During the past few years other studies have sprung up. I welcome these. However this creates confusion. Hopefully the Lockmasters and F & W will supply me with copies of their reports. Copies of all graphs have been given to the Raptor Information Center and to the Archives of Western Illinois University.

Audubon groups and private people have given me much data. I hope they will continue. As the Lockmasters can only report eagles in sight, volunteers are needed who can count the eagles that feed in lock tailwaters, which are out of sight. These at times extend for a mile or more. Volunteers are also useful at any eagle concentrations. At the present time with less funding for the F & W Service volunteers are most urgently needed. My studies are partly funded by the National Wildlife Federation. This I appreciate greatly. - ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Ill. 61244.

Raptor Research Foundation, 1981 Annual Meeting-Montreal Canada, October 28-November 2, 1981 — This was a most enjoyable and educational meeting. The first two days a International Bald Eagle-Osprey Symposium was held with 51 papers presented. The following four days a total of 57 papers were given. These dealt with hawks, owls and vultures as well as eagles. This was truly an international meeting with people from Scotland, Egypt, Australia, Mexico, France, Greece, N.E. Europe and the Mediterranean area. These scientists with the many from Canada and the United States, made the conference outstanding.

There were also 11 workshops and some films. A feature at the annual banquet was a presentation by Concord, Mass. school children. **SCHOOLYARD HAWK WATCHING**, a lively and inspiring demonstration of the educational potential offered by the "greatest show above the earth" - the fall migration of hawks. Hawk watching songs, slides and live demonstrations of classroom and field activities were included. The children were given a standing ovation.

Anyone interested in raptors should consider joining the Raptor Research Foundation. Their publications are worth the price of dues. For more information contact Gary Duke, at the Raptor Rehabilitations Center at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55108 - ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Ill. 61244.

Book Reviews

Naturalist's Color Guide, Part III — Frank B. Smithe—Am. Museum of Natural History, NY — 37 p., plus 9 pages of colors — 1981 — \$8.00 paper.

This is an additional part of a two-part set first published in 1975 (IBL 45:102). The first set included 8 p. of color samples involving 86 colors. An additional 96 colors have been added to make the book much more comprehensive. Each color has a number and a name with some duplication of names. It is very useful for a

careful description of plain birds. The three books are available for \$17.50. ed.

Winter Population Trends of Raptors in Washington from Christmas Bird Counts — Dwight G. Smith & R. L. Knight — Washington Dept. of Game, Olympia — 76 p., 43 figs — 1981 — paperbound, \$10.00 from The Nature Conservancy, 618 Smith Tower, Seattle, WA 98104.

This publication summarizes 34 years of CBC data from Washington. This study indicates the raptor population has increased since 1967. It is a further example of the value of Christmas Bird Counts. They often provided the only source for long term raptor population data. ed.

Australian Parrots in Buash and Aviary — Jan Harmon — David & Charles Inc., N. Pomfret, VT — 200 p., 63 color photos — 1981 — \$32.00.

This book is, it appears, written for the aviculturist. For each species the author presents the meaning of the name, complete description, methods for sexing in the hand, races and hybrids, range, field notes on habits, aviary notes and captive breeding information. The photographs are very good but the book does not contain sufficient information of value to interest birders or ornithologists. ed.

Birds of the World: A Checklist — James Clements — Facts of File, 460 Park Ave. S., NY — 562 p., 1981 — \$19.95.

This is the 3rd edition of this book first published in 1974 (IBL 44:77). It adds a computer numbering system and retains a format that allows space for one's observation data for each species. I have kept my life list in the first edition as it allowed the largest space for notes of any world checklist. The current edition retains the very easily read large type and its appearance shows a desire on the part of the author to keep updating his work. ed.

Where to Find Birds in New York State — S.R. Drennan — Syracuse U. Press — 513 p., 105 maps — 1981 — \$38.00, paperbound \$18.95.

New York is a large state with a diverse range of natural areas. This book selects and details the top 500 birding spots within the state. The birding spots vary greatly in size and each is located on a map. The text is quite readable and covers all seasons. Some areas, such as the Niagara R., are done in a tour format with each stop detailed. The status for many species is summarized by region for quick reference and sites are indexed. It is well done and areas I have birded are objectively covered. ed.

An Annotated Checklist of Peruvian Birds — T.A. & S.A. Parker and M.A. Plenge — Buteo Books, Vermillion, SD — 104 p., 1 color & 28 b & w plates, 3 maps — 1982 — softbound, \$15.00.

This checklist provides information on habitat occurrence and life zone abundance for the 1678 species of Peruvian birds. It includes a series of habitat descriptions with photos and a chapter on bird finding. It would be very useful to anyone going to Peru on a birding tour and indispensable for one going on their own. ed.

Waterfowl of the Chesapeake Bay Country — Tidenater Pubs. Centerville, M.D. Brooke Meanley — 210 p., 104 b & w drawings, photos & maps — 1982 — \$19.95.

The Chesapeake Bay is a significant wintering area for many waterfowl, especially the Canvasbacks which stop above Keokuk en route. The author summarizes the changing patterns of waterfowl populations and gives a nice insight into the reasons. The picture is presented on a species bases and by relating to the factors involved. There is much of interest for all bird students. ed.

The Bird-Watcher's Dictionary — Peter Weaver — T. & A. D. Poyser, U.K. — 155 p., many line drawings — 1981 — \$17.50.

This dictionary has an English flavor, but defines the terms used by or-

nithologists in a very concise manner. It also includes a complete list of British and Irish species with status categories and a list of N. Am. & U.K. common names which differ. The book also makes for interesting browsing. ed.

Mountain Islands and Desert Seas — F. R. Gehlbach — Texas A. & M. University Press, College Station — 298 p., 65 color photos — 1981 — \$19.95.

This book is sub-titled "A Natural History of the U.S.—Mexican borderlands," dealing with the entire ecology of this extensive region. The author delves into the history and early scientific exploration as well as current biological interrelationships. The text is quite readable and interesting, a rare combination of a scientifically oriented work. ed.

The Peregrine Falcon in Greenland—Observing an Endangered Species — James T. Harris, reviewed in IBL 49 p. 95 is now available in paperback at \$8.95, University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO.

Special Opportunity

Recently Mrs. Ross King of Clinton, a life member of the I.O.U., donated some equipment to the society. These items will be offered for sale at the meeting in Ames on May 8. It will be a silent auction with a minimum amount indicated for each item. Successful bidders will be announced at the banquet.

The items include two pair of 9 x 35 Bausch & Lomb zephyr binoculars with leather cases, a Viewmaster stereo projector & case, Argus 300 manual slide projector, B & L 15x scope eyepiece, a scope window mount, two regular and one short tripod and about 12 books. All proceeds go to the I.O.U. ed.

Scholarships Announced By The National Audubon Society Cover

A scholarship program for high school, college and graduate school students has been announced by the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute. The 1982 scholarships are designed to defray a student's expenses while attending school, or for a project or summer program of the student's choice. Application forms and instructions are available until August 15, 1982 by sending a self addressed stamped No. 10 envelope to: Scholarship Committee, National Audubon Society Expedition Institute, RFD No. 1, Box 149B, Lubec, Maine 04652. The financial aid and multiple scholarship grants, ranging in amounts from \$100 to \$200 are made available by Audubon to help young people take advantage of learning opportunities throughout the nation.

Recipient's reactions to the financial assistance has been positive. They report that the Audubon Expedition Institute scholarships have made possible the fulfillment of their immediate education and career goals such as attending schools, summer camps, workshops and travel programs, photographing endangered Alaskan wildlife, interning in conservation organizations, or participating in the Expedition Institute.

COVER

Our 1982 cover, a Song Sparrow, is the work of Mark Rouw of Des Moines. Mark has been an I.O.U. member since 1968 and is one of the best of Des Moines birders. ed.